

The Value of Correction
Proverbs 10:17
February 7, 2016

Introduction

Video illustration. Scene of interstate highway exits. Signs telling which lane goes to which city. Staying on it = way of life. Ignoring signs and getting off it = going astray. Keep going on the wrong path = death. Correction is realizing that the sign is right and going back to the correct way.

Proverbs 10:17

*He who keeps instruction is in the way of life,
But he who refuses correction goes astray.*

I. Instruction

- Promise

- In way of life

- Both quality of life and eternal life (see also **Proverbs 16:17**)

Proverbs 12:28 *In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.*

Proverbs 15:24 *The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.*

- Fear of YHWH is the way of life

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 19:23 *The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.*

- Since we are in the New Covenant

- Fear of YHWH = faith in Lord Jesus Christ

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

- His word is how we start and stay on the way of life

Proverbs 6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life,*

1 John 2:24 *Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

Note: We cannot get on the way of life without Christ. We cannot do this on our own power and will.

- Attitude

- Keeping instructions
 - Better “heed”
 - Takes much concentration and energy to follow His ways

Proverbs 13:1 *A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

Proverbs 12:15 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.*

- Loving instructions

Proverbs 12:1 *Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.*

- Willing to listen

Proverbs 19:20 *Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.*

- Willing to apply

Proverbs 23:12 *Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.*

II. Correction

- What is correction
 - It is the pointer from wrong to right
 - It is intended to get us back on the way of life
- It starts with godly parents training their children
 - It is a sign of love from parent to child

Proverbs 13:24 *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

- It is a reflection of God's character

Proverbs 3:11-12 *My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

- It is necessary

Proverbs 23:13-14 *Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.*

- All children are from Adam and have received his sin nature

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

- Without correction, things get worse—not better

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Note: Punishing children is a form of teaching. Parents should never use correction in anger. Children do dumb things because it is their sinful nature, but they also do this in ignorance. Spanking, time-outs or any form of correction should be used to teach children that what they did was wrong and sin against God. Remind them of the gospel, the good news that Christ came to save sinners.

- Willingness to accept correction
 - If you love instructions from God, then you are willing to listen to rebukes
 - Correction is effective in changing us

Proverbs 17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.

- We recognize the value of correction

Proverbs 19:25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.

Proverbs 25:12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

- We will be honored

Proverbs 13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

- Become more prudent
 - Ability to use godly knowledge with thought and care for the future

Proverbs 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.

- The lesson
 - No matter how harsh or gentle the rebuke, we must be willing to listen
 - Sometimes they can be right, sometimes they can be wrong—listen
 - If they are right, then we must be willing to accept correction and change

III. Rejection

- Attitude to correction
 - Hates it

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 15:5, 12 *A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent. 12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.*

- Refuses to listen

Proverbs 13:1 *A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

- Refuses to change (stubborn)

Proverbs 17:10 *Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.*

Proverbs 27:22 *Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.*

- Severe consequences

Proverbs 13:18 *Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored.*

- Necessity for harsh correction

Proverbs 19:29 *Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.*

Proverbs 26:3 *A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back.*

- Ultimate end

Proverbs 15:10 *Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.*

Proverbs 29:1 *He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

Coram Deo

Proverbs 15:31-33 *The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.*

The main reason a person would refuse discipline and correction is that he does not care about the eternal value of his soul. He could care less about doing what God requires. He does not seek God at all. The reason for that is that man is full of pride. Being full of pride, he shall die apart from God. However, for those who humble themselves before the Lord and others, they shall be honored. They shall be counted among the very wise. Their wisdom and understanding will increase. Most of all, they shall have eternal life.