

Correcting Our Criticism

Galatians 6:1

Correcting Our Criticism

- When a brother needs help overcoming a mistake, there is a Divinely ordered manner in which one must do it
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
- Whether we want to hear it or not, according to the scriptures the manner in which we speak to a person is often as important as the substance of what we say

When One Must Criticize Or Correct

- Criticize the action, not the person.
 - Rom. 7:22-23 - “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”
 - Psalm 25:7 - “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.”

When One Must Criticize Or Correct

- Correct the person in private
 - John 21:17-22
 - Acts 18:26 - “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”
 - Prov. 12:16 - “A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame.”

When One Must Criticize Or Correct

- Don't exaggerate
 - Titus 2:8, 15 - "Sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you... 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you."
- Consider your motive
 - Gal. 6:1 - "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

When One Must Criticize Or Correct

- Realize that criticism is not a talent
 - Rom. 14:19 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
 - Acts 4:36 - “Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus”
- Be humble, and don't fake it

When One Must Receive Correction

- Prov. 9:7-10 - “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

When One Must Receive Correction

- Because we are all fallible, we all need correction from time to time.
- Yet, very few of us have learned to take correction very well.
- In fact, we can nearly always find a good excuse to reject correction and instruction offered to us.
- Be as humble in receiving correction as you are supposed to be when giving it

When One Must Receive Correction

- One of the great expressions of religious ignorance of our time is to respond to someone who makes the effort to pull you back from the brink of sin, “You have no right to judge me!”
- They may be the only thing standing between you and hell.
- Your conscience has ceased to function, your will has given up the battle, and you’ve emotionally bullied everyone else into being afraid to say anything to you.
- Realistically, what else is standing between you and eternity?
- God bless, and so should you, the brother who takes the risk and pulls you back from the brink.

When One Must Receive Correction

- What is written?
 - Prov. 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
 - Prov. 8:33 - “Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it.”
 - Prov. 12:1 - “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.”

When One Must Receive Correction

- What is written?
 - Prov. 15:5, 32 - “A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent... 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”
 - Prov. 19:20 - “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.”

Excuses We Use To Reject Instruction And Correction

- Weaknesses of the people who correct us
- The correction is not 100% accurate.
- The correction wasn't worded or handled right. The corrector's attitude was a little off.

How To Receive Correction

- Remember that a fool can always find an excuse for ignoring instruction
 - Prov. 12:15 - “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.”
- Develop a respect for God, His will, His word, and His purpose above everything else in your life, then it will become easy to be humble
 - James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

How To Receive Correction

- Show respect for the one who is helping you to go to heaven
 - James 5:19-20 - “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

How To Receive Correction

- Receive the correction with honor
 - Rom. 3:23 - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death...”
 - Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”
- You and I are blessed to have someone who cares enough for us to help lift us out of that condition!