

“Reproof: The Unwelcome Expression of Love”
Proverbs 9:7-9

What is reproof? *It is addressing a sin in someone’s life with the intent of keeping them from continuing on in a harmful or destructive behavior. This addressment is rooted in love for God, love for the individual, and the belief that, as a Christian, they desire for their sin to be addressed.*

“It is hard to accept a rebuke, even a loving and private one. It is even harder to give a rebuke in loving humility. But this is no excuse for not participating. This just emphasizes why the Spirit of God is essential in this transaction.”

- Proverbs 9:7-9:
 - The Foolishness of Rejecting Reproof:
 - **“A fool despises his father’s instruction....”** (Proverbs 15:5a). **“He who rejects reproof leads others astray.”** (Proverbs 10:17b). **“He who hates reproof is stupid.”** (Proverbs 12:1b). **“Whoever ignores instruction (reproof) despises himself....”** (Proverbs 15:32a). **“Poverty and disgrace comes to him** who ignores instruction (reproof)....” (Proverbs 13:18a). **“He who is often reproofed, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.”** (Proverbs 29:1). **“There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die.”** (Proverbs 15:10)
 - Giving Biblical Reproof is Loving:
 - **“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”** (Proverbs 27:5-6). **“Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.”** (Proverbs 9:8b). **“Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness....”** (Psalm 141:5a)
 - Reproof is How We Grow Spiritually:
 - **“Whoever heeds instruction is on the path of life....”** (Proverbs 10:17a). **“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge....”** (Proverbs 12:1a). **“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise....”** (Proverbs 13:20a). **“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.”** (Proverbs 9:9)
- How to Give and Receive Reproof:
 - We are naturally flawed, selfish, arrogant, and sinful. This is why we need reproof desperately. **“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!”** (Isaiah 5:21)
 - In God’s design, He uses people to address our sin. **“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”** (Proverbs 27:17; cf. Proverbs 27:6a — **“Faithful are the wounds of a friend.”**)
 - Sin left unaddressed can be catastrophic. **“But one sinner destroys much good.”** (Ecclesiastes 9:18b)
 - Reproof given and received is a mark of love for God and neighbor. One of the most loving things someone can do for me is tell me when I am wrong. **“Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.”** (Proverbs 25:12)
 - We must remember that sin, not reproof, is the enemy. And obedience, not disobedience, is the aim. **“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”** (Matthew 18:15)
 - A Christian must aim to be honest and transparent if they are going to grow spiritually.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Please see the February Newsletter for more information about this collection.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, February 8th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for the meal. As always, everyone is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**LEGACY PRACTICUM COURSE:** Our next Systematic Theology Course will be “Hermeneutics” which is the Art (task) and Science (principles) of Biblical interpretation and will begin on February 9th, from 6:00-9:00pm each Monday in the Fellowship Hall. Interpreting and explaining Scriptures is a Science because it is guided by rules within a system; and it is an Art because the application of the rules is by skill, and not by mechanical imitation. This course is taught by Dr. Gary Kochheiser and will be 26 Lecture Hours Video teaching. If you are interested in learning and developing the right principles of interpreting the Scriptures, this course will help you. If interested, let Elder Richard know so a Syllabus can be prepared for you.

★**NEW MEMBERS' CLASS:** If you are interested in becoming a Church Member, or have any questions about Church Membership, we are having a New Members' Class on Sunday, February 15th, and on Sunday, February 22nd, at 9am. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up if you want to participate in this class. For any questions, please see Pastor Zach.

★*For all other announcements, please see the February Newsletter!*