

Reproof

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"He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding"
Proverbs 15:32

Over the years, I have had many come through this ministry wanting deliverance but who have a "YEAH, BUT..." mentality. As absurd as it is, I have even found myself at times foolishly being tempted to want to agree with them that maybe "they did, indeed, have a problem that somehow even God did not know the answer to."

I am just now after 20 years in deliverance realizing this type of person has little interest in crucifying the flesh and is a person who wants his own way rather than God's way which is "to deny himself and take up his cross and follow Him." In seeking God for answers as to how this type of person might be helped, God has given a clear answer found in Proverbs 15:32

"He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding"

It takes understanding to have the knowledge that keeps us from perishing. Understanding is the necessary ingredient to "knowing the Truth that sets us free".

The dictionary definition of reproof is a reason offered for or against a proposition, opinion, or measure; a reason offered in proof, to induce belief, or convince the mind; followed by for or against. Since "reproof" in the Hebrew means argument, a person must be willing to lay aside their own argument and embrace God's argument. They must be a person who is willing to receive the discipline of being corrected and through repentance choose God's way.

The consequences of not turning to His reproof:

Self hatred

PRO 15:32 He who neglects discipline despises himself

Destruction

PRO 1:24-33 "Because I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; and you neglected all my counsel, and did not want my reproof; I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm, and your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive shall kill them, and the complacency of fools shall destroy them. But he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil. Now then, my sons, listen to me, And do not depart from the words of my mouth."

PRO 5:8-11 "Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your vigor to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest strangers be filled with your strength, and your hard-earned goods go to the house of an alien; and you groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed; and you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors! I was almost in utter ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

Poverty & Shame

PRO 13:18 "Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline,
But he who regards reproof will be honored."

Broken beyond remedy

PRO 29:1 "A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy."

Death

PRO 15:10 "He who hates reproof will die."

Straying from words of knowledge.

PRO 19:27 "Cease listening, my son, to discipline, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."

The rewards of receiving reproof:

PRO 15:5 "A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is prudent."

The prudent are crowned with knowledge

PRO 14:8 "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit."

PRO 14:15 "The naive believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps."

PRO 14:18 "The naive inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge."

PRO 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

PRO 15:5 "A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is prudent."

Will dwell among the wise

PRO 15:31 "He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise."

PRO 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid"

PRO 19:20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days."

Happiness

JOB 5:17 "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."

Confirmation of being a son

PRO 3:11-12 "My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, or loathe His reproof for whom the Lord loves He reproves, even as a father, the son in whom he delights."

Proof of God's love

REV 3:19 "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous, therefore, and repent."

Peaceful fruit of righteousness produced.

HEB 12:11 "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

His Words will be made known.

PRO 1:23 "Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you."

Reproofs of discipline are a way of life, the way to freedom and to the knowledge that keeps one from perishing.

PRO 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

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P. O. Box 1141, Lindale, TX 75771 903-882-1065