

A Willingness To Be Corrected

I. Introduction: We just had a division that started because a person refused to hear correction (**Zechariah 7:5-14**).

A. It is a work of spiritually minded saints to correct one another (**Galatians 6:1-2**).

1. Remember, as we have recently studied (<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/ThereIsAlmostAlwaysMoreToConsider.pdf>), those whom have their lives clean first (**Matthew 7:1-5** and **Luke 17:3-4**) and are capable of the task (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).

2. If a brother or sister is suitable for the task, they should seek to restore erring saints (**James 5:19-20**).

B. It is a work of evangelists to correct brethren that err (**II Timothy 4:1-5** and **Titus 2:15**).

1. Reprove means: “to confute, admonish: — convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove” (Strong’s # 1651).

2. That word is used in other texts discussing: “**tell a fault**” (**Matthew 18:15**), “**reproved**” (**Luke 3:18-19**, **John 3:19-21**, and **Ephesians 5:13**), “**convicted**” (**John 8:1-11**), “**convinceth**” (**John 8:46**), “**reprove**” (**John 16:7-8** and **Ephesians 5:11**), “**convinced**” (**I Corinthians 14:24-25**), “**rebuke**” (**I Timothy 5:20**, **Titus 1:13**, **Titus 2:15**, and **Revelation 3:19**), “**convince**” (**Titus 1:9**), “**rebuked**” (**Hebrews 12:5**), “**convinced**” (**James 2:9**).

3. One of the reasons we have the Scriptures, which I am supposed to preach, is for correction (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

4. Don’t stop your ears and seek to destroy the messenger (**Acts 7:51-60**)!

II. Body: To Prevent A Repeat Of History, All Of Us Need To Be Ready To Receive Correction If Needed (**James 1:19-27**).

A. The fact that the sinners amongst God’s people refuse correction is NOT a new problem (**Jeremiah 5:1-3**, **Jeremiah 7:23-28**, **Zephaniah 3:1-5**, **Luke 7:24-30**, and **II Timothy 4:10-17**).

1. To prevent this in us, we have to be a people willing to hear first (**Nehemiah 8:1-9:3**).

2. Yet, knowing when to hear and when not to hear is important (**Proverbs 14:7**, **Proverbs 19:27**, **Matthew 16:5-12**, **Mark 4:24**, **Colossians 2:4-8**, **II John 1:9-11**, and **Revelation 2:14-16**).

3. Knowing who to listen to and who not to listen to requires you to be a fruit inspector (**Matthew 7:15-20**).

4. You can listen and then take that information and test it (**Acts 17:10-11** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).

5. Again, though, don’t have your first impulse be to defend yourself without hearing first (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**).

B. Those unwilling to receive proper correction (**Proverbs 10:17, Proverbs 15:10, and Proverbs 15:31-33**).

1. Don't be stupid (**Proverbs 12:1**).
2. Don't be stubborn (**Proverbs 1:24-33 and Jeremiah 17:23-27**).
3. Don't be proud (**James 4:6-10**).
4. Be a listener (**Proverbs 12:15**).
5. Don't see the messenger as an enemy (**II Corinthians 12:15 and Galatians 4:16**).

C. When correction is refused, the end result is lost souls (**Revelation 2:1-7**).

1. When you refuse to listen the faithful will have to leave you alone (**Matthew 15:1-14**).
2. If you become argumentative, full of debate, contentious, and divisive; you will be admonished, marked, avoided, and rejected (**Romans 16:17-18 and Titus 3:9-11**).
3. If you go too far, there will be no place for repentance with the Lord (**Isaiah 30:1, Acts 5:1-10, Romans 1:18-32, Romans 6:1-2, I Timothy 1:19-20, and Hebrews 10:26-31**).
4. If the congregation cannot determine that God will forgive you, we cannot have fellowship with you (**I John 1:3-7**).
5. So, BE CAREFUL when you choose to reject correction (**Hebrews 12:22-29; cf. I Peter 4:17-19**)!

D. Understand that those seeking to properly correct you are showing you an act of love even if it comes across as harsh (**Proverbs 27:5-6**).

1. Love those trying to make you right with the Lord (**Proverbs 9:7-8**).
2. Rejoice that the right information is presented to you (**Acts 15:1-31**).

III. Conclusion: When you are properly corrected you must be willing to receive that instruction (**Proverbs 19:20**). Don't seek to cause discord (**Proverbs 6:12-19**). Don't go start your own church (**Acts 20:30**)!

*None of this is new information to the saints here:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/receivingcorrectionmovingforward112011byeager.htm>

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/wotvol11/wotbulletin10102010.html>

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/willingtoreceivecorrection2014.html>

https://www.wordsoftruth.net/walkingtoofarawaytocomeback_bay_2015.htm

https://www.wordsoftruth.net/Sermon_ReproveNotAScorner2018.pdf