

Overview:

A growing disciple of Jesus Christ lives a life that makes use of the advice and input of other mature Believers. He has also accepted a supernatural standard for unity and commitment to the Believers around him and understands the importance of seeking and granting forgiveness to restore unity of the spirit with others. Finally, the mature Believer faithfully corrects and reproves his fellow Believers when it can help them in their spiritual growth. Reproof and correction are not just a good idea, they're required.

Outline:

"For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life." (Prov. 6:23)

I. Let's get our terms straight**A. Reproof defined:**

1. "To call attention to remises [carelessness or inattention] with a kindly intention to correct or assist."

B. Correction defined:

1. "To alter or adjust so as to bring to some standard or required condition."

C. Rebuke defined:

1. "To criticize sharply; to reprimand."

II. Inevitable part of Christian growth**A. It happens to the "best" of us!**

1. Ex. Dawson Trotman (Prov 9:9)

B. Produces a harvest of righteousness

1. Heb. 12:11 "No discipline seems..."

C. Smooths out the rough edges

1. Prov. 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron..."

III. Biblical mandate for reproof & correction**A. It's not an option**

1. Lev. 19:17 "Do not hate your..."
2. Luke 17:3 "If your brother sins..."
3. Rom. 12:18 "If it is possible..."
4. Titus 2:15 "Encourage and rebuke..."

B. Wise men love it; fools hate it

1. Prov. 9:8 "Do not rebuke..."
2. Prov. 15:31 "He who listens..."
3. Prov. 15:32 "He who ignores..."

IV. Nuts & bolts of reproof & correction**A. When should you go to someone?**

1. When you can't forget an offense
 - a) 1 Pet 4:8b "...love covers over a multitude of sins..."
2. When they have significantly fallen short of God's expectations or standards
3. When they have consistently fallen short of God's expectations or standards

B. When NOT to go to someone

1. When you are **NOT** a part of the problem or

a part of the solution.

2. When you are OUT of the Spirit

- a) Choose to be IN the Spirit, then go
- b) Prov. 29:22 "An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins."

C. How to give reproof & correction**1. Get your heart right first**

- a) Luke 6:41-42

2. Speak the truth in love

- a) Share your own faults-relate to them
- b) Eph. 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth..."
- c) Prov. 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds..."

3. Use the Word of God

- a) 2Tim 3:16-17 "All Scripture is...useful..."

4. Communicate clearly

- a) Give specific examples
- b) Don't dig back too far :-)
- c) Make sure they understand

5. Remember the goal: Reconciliation

- a) Matt. 18:15-17

D. How to receive reproof & correction**1. Be humble & positive (smile, if possible)**

- a) Prov. 9:9 "Instruct a wise man..."
2. Don't react negatively (even if...)
3. Take it from God
4. Repent, if needed
5. Thank them
 - a) Ps 141:5 "Let a righteous man strike me..."
6. Pray about it
7. Take action! (2Cor 7:11-Godly sorrow)

Conclusion...

Understanding the reasons for (and benefits of) reproof and correction, should spur all Believers to practice this procedure whenever it could help another Believer. Knowing that God commands us to do it should motivate us into action. Understanding some practical "nuts and bolts" of reproof and correction will help us "share the truth in love".

Supporting Material:

Important Verses:

Prov. 6:23 "For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life."

Prov. 9:9 "Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning."

Hebr. 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Prov. 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Prov. 29:22 "An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins."

Lev. 19:17 "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt."

Luke 17:3 "So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."

Rom. 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Titus 2:15 "These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you."

Prov. 9:8 "Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you."

Prov. 15:31 "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. 32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding."

1Pet. 4:8 "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

Prov. 13:15 "Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard."

Luke 6:41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Eph. 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

Prov. 27:6 "Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."

2Tim. 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in

righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Matt. 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Prov. 9:9 "Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning."

Ps. 141:5 "Let a righteous man strike me --it is a kindness; let him rebuke me --it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it. Yet my prayer is ever against the deeds of evildoers;"

2Cor. 7:11 "See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point, you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter."

Quotes:

"The diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor the man perfected without trials."
- Chinese Proverb

"The correction of silence is what kills; when you know you have transgressed, and your friend says nothing, and avoids your eye."
- Robert Louis Stevenson

"As Christian leaders we will be required to admonish and rebuke. In fact, a good deal of time may be spent doing this work. It is an important aspect of ministry not to be neglected because it is used by God to rescue people from sin and deception. You will never know until heaven the full extent of good you have done for others by rebuking them about sin or warning them about false doctrine."
- Alexander Strauch

"Contrary to people-pleasers, only people-lovers are able to confront."
- Edward Welch

"Not to rebuke sin is a form of hatred, not love (Lev. 19:17). Refusing to warn a person about his sin is just as unloving as refusing to warn him about a serious disease he may have. A person who does not warn a friend about his sin cannot claim love as his motive."
- John MacArthur

"A sensible friend who will unsparingly criticize you from week to week will be a far greater blessing to you than a thousand

undiscriminating admirers if you have sense enough to bear his treatment, and grace enough to be thankful for it."
- Charles Spurgeon

"I bear my willing witness that I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop. I sometimes question whether I have ever learned anything except through the rod. When my schoolroom is darkened, I see the most."
- Charles H. Spurgeon

"A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints"
- L.L. Nash

"The church does not lead the world nor echo it; she confronts it. Her note is the supernatural note."
- Oswald Chambers

Resources:

TRC Messages: Get Wisdom, part 11, **GODLY CORRECTION**, Pastor Bill Young, Weekend of March 2 & 3, 2019

Book: Alexander Strauch, **Leading With Love**, Lewis and Roth, 2006

Book: Jerry Bridges, **The Practice of Godliness**, NavPress, 1996

Book: Ken Sande, **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict**, Ken Sande, Baker Books (www.Peacemakers.net)

Web: www.Peacemakers.net This site has many practical resources that offer Biblical Instruction, Biblical Counseling and Biblical Peacemaking that invites reconciliation of mankind to God, mankind to themselves and mankind to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your biggest fear when it comes to confronting someone in love about his or her sin? Why should you do it anyway?
2. Describe a time someone corrected or reproved you either in a good way or a bad way. How did you respond and what did you learn?
3. How should you respond if someone comes to you and lovingly points out an area you need to work on? Describe a real life example if you have one.

DISCIPLESHIP – PART 3

Initiating Relationships

Overview:

Discipleship includes initiating relationships with new people we meet along the way and being willing to take established friendships to a deeper level of faith. We mutually agree to encourage one another in following Jesus. Through all of our strengths and weaknesses, we strive to build an environment in which we can teach, correct, model and love. It takes great humility.

Outline:

Three ways of initiating relationships.

I. Be intentional.

- A. Initiate Relationships (James 2:8)
 - 1. Be friendly (John 15:12,13)
 - 2. Practice hospitality (1 Peter 4:9)
 - 3. Serve (Galatians 5:13)

- B. Initiate Evangelism (Mark 16:15)
 - 1. Initiative evangelism (Romans 1:16)

II. Look for (F.A.T.) people.

- A. Faithful (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - 1. Look for good stewards (1 Cor. 4:2)
 - 2. Look for dependability (Matt. 5:47)

“Faithfulness means firmly adhering to the observance of a duty, keeping your word, fulfilling your obligations. It involves being loyal, constant, and reliable.” – Bob Kauflin

- B. Available (Psalm 51:12)
 - 1. Willing to be responsible
 - 2. “Ready” (1 Corinthians 14:8)

C. Teachable (Psalm 86:11)

- 1. Hungry (Matthew 5:6)
- 2. Open to instruction (Proverbs 15:32)

“[Christ] wants a child’s heart, but a grown-up’s head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate, and teachable, as good children are; but He also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim.” – C.S. Lewis

III. Build a discipleship environment.

- A. Teach (Titus 2:1)
 - 1. Teach with strengths and weaknesses
 - 2. Talk about Jesus (Colossians 3:16)

- B. Correct (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 1. Humility is vital
 - 2. Most correction is done privately

- C. Model (Hebrews 13:7)
 - 1. Do more than talk, walk the walk

- D. Mutual Love (Heb. 10:24)

DISCIPLESHIP – PART 3

Initiating Relationships

Supporting Material:

Verses:

James 2:8 “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.”

John 15:12,13 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

I Peter 4:9 “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Mark 16:15 “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

2 Timothy 2:2 “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men.”

Proverbs 20:6 “Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”

I Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

Matthew 5:47 “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

Psalm 51:12 “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”

I Corinthians 14:8 “And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?”

Psalm 86:11 “Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Proverbs 15:32 “Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.”

Titus 2:1 “But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for

correction, and for training in righteousness,”

Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

Hebrews 10:24 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,”

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you regularly initiate loving your neighbor? How do you do that?

2. How can you improve in loving your neighbor? Think about three practical steps you could implement into your life right now to do so.

3. Are there any (F.A.T.) people you can influence and disciple? Pray God would give you more opportunities to do so.

4. How can you intentionally build an environment to teach, correct, model and mutually love people?

Overview:

There has been a strong and very influential movement within Christianity, attempting to replace Biblical counseling in the church with “Christian psychology” – techniques and wisdom gleaned from secular therapies and dispensed primarily by paid professionals. This has conditioned Christians to think of counseling as something best left to trained experts. The Christian’s basis for counseling is Scripture and is our counseling textbook. The basic presupposition of Biblical counseling is that there is an infinite and personal God who has revealed Himself in the written Word, the Bible. He has also personally revealed Himself in the living Word, Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are totally sufficient for counseling in all matters related to personal problems and for problems in interpersonal relationships.

Outline:

I. What’s wrong with psychology? (definition: *the study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior.*)

- A. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) – The father of modern psychology
 - 1. Unbelieving humanist
 - 2. Separated the study of humans from the spiritual reality
- B. Anti-biblical theories (Psalm 1:1)
 - 1. Atheistic, humanistic, and naturalistic theories (2 Tim. 4:3-4, Col. 2:8)
- C. Threat of “Christian psychology”
 - 1. Results in thinking counseling is only for trained experts
 - 2. Unbiblical secular psychology can be disguised in spiritual terminology.
 - 3. Results in thinking crucial areas of wisdom exists outside Scripture
 - 4. Can create dependency on therapy and not real change (2 Tim. 3:7)
 - 5. Sin called sickness, requires therapy not repentance
 - 6. Habitual sin called addictive or compulsive behavior; solution is medical care not moral correction.

II. Commitments of Biblical Counseling

- A. God and His Word are at the center of counseling. (2 Tim. 3:16-17 & 1 Thess. 2:13, 1 Cor. 3:19, Heb. 4:12)
- B. Any other source of knowledge must be submitted to the authority of Scripture. We must realize that there will be opposing views to Scripture.
- C. Sin, in all its dimensions, is the primary problem counselors must deal with. (Jer. 17:9-10)
- D. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the solution. (Isa. 9:6, 11:2)
- E. The change counseling must aim at is progressive sanctification. (definition: *to make holy; set apart as sacred; consecrate, to become more Christ-like.*) (Romans 8:28-29, Philp 1:6, 2:13, 2 Peter 1:2-3)
- F. The difficult circumstances people face are not the cause of their behavioral sins, but rather it reveals the heart.
- G. Counseling is fundamentally a Christian activity and must be church-based. (Rom. 15:14, Heb. 3:13, Gal. 6:1-2, Col. 1:28)

III. Counseling Principles

- A. Be person-oriented instead of problem oriented. (Pr. 27:6, 9)
- B. Have genuine compassion.
 - 1. Example of Jesus (Mt. 9:36)

2. Example of Paul (Acts 20:31)

- C. Counselee needs to know that we respect them.
- D. Be honest with your counselee.
- E. Find out the subject matter before your meeting.
- F. Take time to get God’s thoughts and verses on the issue you will be counseling them about.
- G. If needed, ask if their Small Group leader, pastor, or someone they respect could join the counseling time with them. This helps provide accountability and additional wisdom.
- H. Meet in a place where they will feel comfortable and will be free from distractions. Also, do not counsel the opposite sex by yourself.
- I. Ask a lot of questions to draw them out. (Pr. 18:17) Possibly explore their past. A person’s view of God is often influenced by how they were treated by their parents or others in their past.
- J. Expose wrong thinking or lies they are believing and help them believe and act on God’s Truth. From root to fruit. (2 Cor. 10:5)
- K. Don’t assume that the counselee understands their problem clearly.
- L. Take notes from the counseling session.
- M. Pray frequently for the person and the challenges they are facing. (James 5:16)
- N. Have the person go away with some action items as a result of your time. (2 Cor. 7:10)
 - 1. Look for a teachable heart. If people are not willing to change, leave them to their selves. How much time is wasted counseling people who don’t want to change? However, if a person is willing to change, God will go to endless lengths in order to help them!
- O. Refer counselee to helpful resources. (related books, sermons, verses, and others who may be able to help them.)
 - 1. Center for Christian Therapy (801) 747-9857
- P. Try to schedule a follow-up meeting if necessary in order to provide accountability.
- Q. Get counsel from men/women you respect if you are not sure how to help them. Ask for permission to protect confidentiality.
- R. You may need to break confidentiality to solve the problem. (i.e. abuse, suicidal, church discipline, etc.)

Conclusion

The intended result of Biblical counseling is progressive sanctification of each Believer who is counseled – each counselee making changes that are pleasing to God. Biblical counseling is a process in which a Biblical counselor helps a counselee find and do God’s will, thereby cooperating with God’s plan to progressively conform the counselee to the image of His Son.

Supporting Material:

Important Verses:

God's plan to progressively sanctify believers

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

The sufficiency of the Scriptures and God's help for counseling

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

1 Thessalonians 2:13 "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

The power of the Holy Spirit to change lives

Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 2:13 "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

2 Peter 1:2 "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence."

Psychology vs. sound doctrine

2 Timothy 4:3 "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

The power of prayer to change lives

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

Counseling as natural function of church life

Romans 15:14 "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another."

Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be

tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Colossians 1:28 "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

Scripture superior to human wisdom

1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness.'"

Stay away from counsel of the wicked

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers."

Word of God more effective discerner of the human heart than any earthly means

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Those who look within themselves to find answers are in a hopeless situation

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Importance of developing friendship with counselee

Proverbs 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel."

Jesus is Wonderful Counselor

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 11:2 "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

Jesus' example of compassion for others

Matthew 9:36 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Paul's example of compassion for others

Acts 20:31 "Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."

Help counselee replace lies they are believing with God's truth

2 Corinthians 10:5 "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

Principle to remember when more than one person is involved in a problem

Proverbs 18:17 "The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him."

Godly sorrow results in repentance of sin that results in real change and action

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter."

2 Timothy 3:7 "Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth."

Quotes:

"Modern psychology tells us it's too bad to be an orphan, terrible to be an only child, damaging to be the youngest, crushing to be in the middle, and taxing to be the oldest. The only way out: be born as an adult."
— Anonymous

"The problem most people have is that they're doing nothing to solve their basic problem."
— Bob Richardson

"You must live with people to know their problems, and live with God in order to solve them."
— Peter Forsyth

Resources:

Introduction to Biblical Counseling by John MacArthur & Wayne Mack

Competent to Counsel by Jay Adams

The Christian Counselor's Manual by Jay Adams

Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling by John Kruijs

Wise Counsel by Darrell Ferguson

Counsel from the Cross by Elyse Fitzpatrick & Dennis Johnson

Seeing with New Eyes by David Powlison

Discussion Question:

How can you grow as a Biblical counselor?