

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

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GETTING IN TROUBLE

Getting in trouble, also known as being chastened, is not fun. It does not make you feel good to disappoint someone or to do something that makes you feel guilty. The problem is that if you do not get in trouble sometime, you probably are not learning and growing. The greatest way that humans learn is by failing at something.

There are many proverbs regarding instruction and correction. Solomon used his great wisdom to show us how important they are through his writings.

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Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die. (Pro. 15:10)

It was restated and expanded upon in Hebrews.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. (Heb. 12:11)

Chastening helps us to grow, and it should be done anytime it is necessary, but especially when there is hope.

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. (Pro. 19:18)

It is ok to upset someone if it is necessary so that their soul can be saved and it is done in love. We must do what is necessary to instruct in the truth and to make sure that people do not stray from the path of right, but we have to do it in a way that does not seem condescending, mean, or bossy. Instruction is a key component to helping others through this life, but it is only useful if it is done in love. It is much more difficult to have someone listen to you if you do not help in love. Jesus said himself that he will rebuke and chasten as many as He loves, and it is because He loves them. He wanted us to show the same love to everyone around us.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

It is up to us to instruct with love.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. (Psa. 32:8)

The importance of instruction is seen in Proverbs. Solomon begins the book explaining why he wrote it and how he hopes that it teaches generations about how to live in a way pleasing unto God.

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro. 1:1-7)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. It is not just about trying to correct someone who is not doing the right thing. It is about using God's word to show why what they are doing is not good.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Scripture is given to us for reproof, correction, and instruction in how to be righteous. We must use the scriptures if we want to help someone see the err of their ways. There are several examples of people in the Bible who do not receive the correction given to them.

O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. (Jer. 5:3)

But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth. (Jer. 7:28)

Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. (Zep. 3:1-2)

We have to be willing to accept correction, and we need to be willing to give it when necessary. When giving correction, there is a proper way to do it.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. (Mat. 18:15-17)

It is important to note that in this case, there is a sin that has been committed. We are told to try to take care of it between ourselves but if that does not work, to take two or three with us as witnesses. It goes on to say if that does not work to present the issue before the church and if that does not change the person's mind then they are to be unto us as a heathen. Basically, they are not willing to accept the correction and instruction.

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility. (Pro. 15:32-33)

But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction. (Jer. 17:23)

If we do not try to correct someone who is doing wrong, it can cause a multitude of issues. Also, if we are being corrected and do not listen to the correction, we are risking something far greater than the bad feeling of getting in trouble. We are risking our salvation.

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die. (Pro. 15:10)

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. (Pro. 13:18)

It is okay to mess up or fail at something; it is how you handle the situation that is the big issue. Do you use it to learn, or do you act as if you did nothing wrong? It is not always easy to admit when you are wrong or to correct others when they are, but it is vital to continuing to walk on a path that is pleasing to God.

A. D.

YOUR ADORNMENT

You might adorn the walls of your house with photos or pictures or other ornaments. A store might adorn the outside of their building with flags or balloons or other objects to get attention and draw in customers. To adorn is to enhance the appearance of something. It is common practice for people to also adorn themselves. This adorning might be eyeliner or mascara or lipstick or rouge. It might be a different hair color or hair style. It might be ear rings or nose rings or other piercings. It might be with jewelry such as necklaces or bracelets or rings. It might be tattoos. It might be with colorful dresses or shirts or it might be with revealing clothing. There are many different ways that people adorn themselves today in an attempt to enhance their appearance and draw attention to themselves. Does God care about your adornment?

The apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:1-4,

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Arranging the hair, wearing gold, and putting on fine apparel are all outward adornments. The apostle is admonishing the

wives to adorn themselves with “*the hidden man of the heart*” rather than using these outward adornments. I submit that there is a principle here that applies to all of us and not just to wives.

God does not specifically forbid outward adornment. In fact, we all adorn ourselves in some way since we all wear clothes and arrange our hair, unless you are bald. But as a Christian, you will want to avoid certain physical adornments. Some adornment marks an individual of a particular religion, for example: Muslim or Hindu. In our local high school, there are at least ten different gangs or groups that can be identified by their adornment; their makeup, clothes, hats, and other adornments mark an individual as belonging to a particular group. Some adornment marks a person of a certain sexual orientation. Other adornment marks one as carnally minded and a person of the world. I encourage you to choose outward adornment that marks you as a holy child of God.

God is interested in the heart of a person rather than their outside appearance. The prophet Samuel was sent by the Lord to Bethlehem to choose the next king of Israel from the sons of Jesse. Samuel saw Jesse’s son Eliab and thought that he would be the next king.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. (1 Sam. 16:7)

Here are a couple of scriptures that show the importance of the attitude of the heart.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. (Pro. 4:23)

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil,

Speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. (Mat. 12:33-35)

God wants us to emphasize the adornment of the heart. The apostle Peter encouraged the wives to adorn themselves with “*the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*” For a woman to have a meek [gentle] and quiet spirit today is rare. However the apostle says that such an adornment is very precious in the sight of God. The apostle wrote in 1 Peter 5:5,

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Humility is an adornment of the heart that God values; He gives grace to the one who has that adornment and we all desire the grace of God. The apostle Paul told Timothy to flee the love of money and instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness [gentleness](1 Tim. 6:11). These adornments of the heart are of great value to God and mark you as a child of God rather than a person of the world. With these adornments, you will be a light in the world (Mat. 5:6).

My encouragement to you is to emphasize the adornment of a virtuous heart. Since you belong to God, only seek the physical adornments that would please Him.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

ED ANDERSON
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GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
May 27 - 29	Willow Oaks Russell Springs, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 1 - 3	Cornerstone Irvin, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 5 - 10	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Hunter Bulger & Wilbur Bass
June 12 - 17	Mt. Carmel Woodland, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 19 - 24	Ephesus Ephesus, GA	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Remember last months questions?

1. Which king was saved from death by Abraham's prayer?
ABIMELECH (Gen. 20:7-17)
2. How old was Joseph when he began serving Pharaoh?
THIRTY (Gen. 41:46)
3. When Saul defeated the Amalekites he disobeyed God and took possessions from the land. What was the name of the king he also spared? AGAG (1 Sam. 15:9)
4. Who sang, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"?
MARY (Luke 1:46)
5. In what month of Elisabeth's pregnancy did the angel appear to Mary? SIXTH (Luke 1:26)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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