

Correction: Give and Receive It

Pacific Heart Attitudes - part 7 of 7

October 16, 2022

DAY 1: I need correction

Receiving Correction

Hebrews 3:12-13 Take care, brothers lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is called "Today," that none of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

1. The writer of Hebrews warns God's people of several very serious conditions to which we may succumb. Underline each one.

2. Which of the dangers strikes you the most? Why?

3. What is it about our fallen nature that makes it possible for us to slide into any of those dangers?

- I am proud.

Psalms 36:2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.

4. We believe we don't need God and don't need anyone. We don't need to change. We believe we're justified in living how we want to live.

- I am foolish.

Prov. 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it leads to death.

5. We believe we can get what we want without God and without hurting anyone else.

- I am blind.

Isaiah 59:10 Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

6. We don't see ourselves aright. (Matt. 7:4-5)

What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Do I value correction?

1. When someone corrects us we naturally bristle inside and get angry. We may not say it, but we're outraged. "Well, who do you think you are to come down on me??!!"

2. We may claim to be open to correction in theory, but it is remarkable how upset or angry we can be when we are actually corrected.

3. Our response to correction give us VERY valuable insight into the state of our heart!

*Prov. 9:8-9 Do not reprove a **mock**er, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.*

4. What is the response of the **mock**er when he is criticized?

5. What is the response of the **wise** man and the **righteous** man when he is criticized?

6. Which of those two responses do you relate to the most?

7. How should we receive correction?

- Take heavenward.

Eccl. 4:13 Better is a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will no longer take advice.

a. It is the wise man that listens to what God is saying to him through correction.

- Take heed.

Proverbs 15:31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

b. To "listen" in this verse is more than just hearing words. It means "to take heed." The idea is to take corrective action.

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Giving correction, only after...

Giving Correction

1. We are all too prone to just dumping on someone. That's the damaging way to give correction.

James 1:19 Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to be angry.

2. Before giving correction, we have some work to do on ourselves!

a. Ask yourself...

“Were my feelings hurt?”

“Is this really a “me” issue?”

Correction is to be done for someone else's benefit, not just to get something off my chest.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all love your brothers from the heart because love covers a multitude of sins.

b. Prepare yourself...

- **Attitude of humility.**

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, lest you be judged.

3. This may be the one verse every non-Christian knows.

*Matthew 7:3-4 "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? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"*

4. What must we do before we correct someone else?

Matthew 7:5 "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

5. What is the main point Jesus is saying?

6. It is all too easy to see situations very inaccurately. Without some self-reflection first, we are likely to act “the hypocrite” while believing we are “helping” someone!

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Giving correction, your approach

1. Approach with self-examination.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

2. Approach with gentleness.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness

Restore- The Greek word is used in mending a broken arm. It is not something done haphazardly. It takes time, wisdom, and gentleness.

3. Approach with love.

Eph. 4:15 speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.

If you still have anger toward the person you're wanting to correct,
you are not ready to do this.

James 1:19 The anger of man does NOT accomplish the righteousness of God.

4. Make Correction Based On:

- Scripture, not preference.
- Patterns, not one occurrence. (1 Peter 4:8)
- Gentleness, not harshness (James 1:19-20)
- Significance. Not every failure needs correction. Pick your battles. You can win a battle and lose the relationship war.

5. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Dealing with hurt feelings

1. What does this look like in real life?
2. Imagine your husband is home late from work. Dinner is cool, and you are “cold”. He’s met at the door with stone silence. “Why didn’t you call? Why can’t you be more considerate?” This is how we are tempted to respond. Automatic correction.

And of such episodes do relationships dwindle down to lifelessness.

3. Whenever we are angry it *feels* like it’s the other person’s fault. It *seems* like it’s the other person’s fault. “If you hadn’t done such-and-such I wouldn’t be angry.” That’s how it *looks* to us. But that’s only half the story!
4. The other half of the story is that we believe we need a certain kind of response from someone else. (There is nothing wrong with desiring a certain kind of response). Our anger tells us we are depending on someone else’s response for our deepest needs to be met.

In episodes like this we become functioning atheists and idolaters.

We trust our efforts (atheism) and trust someone else (idolatry)

To come through for us.

5. How should I process unmet *needs*?
 - a. Pray, and ask God to reveal what your real “goal” was.
Psalm 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
 - b. How did I expect to be treated? Appreciated, respected, loved, listened to, attended to, etc. (There is nothing wrong with desiring such responses).
 - c. Only God can meet your deepest needs. At times like these, you must repent from your idol of the moment and turn to the cross for your emotional and relational *needs*.
 - d. After turning to God in repentance and assurance, then, set yourself to minister/encourage the person you are with.
6. “Is it OK to share my unmet desires?” Yes, but ONLY after you have processed your anger.
7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?