

## Proverbs: Receiving Counsel and correction

**38 verses in Proverbs deal with the importance of receiving rebuke, correction and counsel. It is a crucial topic to God.**

God does NOT want us to listen to all counsel or receive all correction or rebuke. He tells us in Psalm 1:1 "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked." Jesus refused to receive Peter's rebuke to not die on the cross, saying to Peter, "get behind me Satan." (Matt. 16:21-23).

The rebuke and counsel proverbs refers to is the wisdom of God, giving through His Word through people. In 1:23 He says "turn to my reproof, . . . I will make known my words to you. . . you neglected my reproof."

Rebuke and reproof in proverbs means to be shown that you are wrong.  
Correction in means being shown what needs to be done that is right,  
Counsel incorporates both.

**Proverbs 1:23-30 tell us this is an absolutely crucial issue! A person who rejects, gets defensive, ignores or retaliates when corrected, rebuked or counseled will experience no help from God, will not be divinely empowered or changed,**

### **Proverbs 1:23-30**

*"Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;  
I will make my words known to you.*

<sup>24</sup> *"Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;*

<sup>25</sup> *And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof;*

<sup>26</sup> *I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes,*

<sup>27</sup> *When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a whirlwind,*

*When distress and anguish come upon you.<sup>28</sup> "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,*

<sup>29</sup> *Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord.*

<sup>30</sup> *"They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.*

**What God wants us to know to become a person who receive not rejects counsel**

- 1. God's counsel comes through His word, through his people**
  - a. **1:23 My words:**
  - b. **Listen to you father and mother. 1:8; The wounds of a friend. 27:6 eg. :Paul. Rebuking Peter; The counsel of a wife 31:11 – A husband's heart trusts his wife Gen. 2:18; Pastors 2 tim. 4:2**
  
- 2. God's rebuke is for our good. 1:23 I will pour out my spirit. . .**
  - a. **You will not be helped by God if you don't respond to his counsel**
  - b. Will not grow in wisdom or insight. 9:9; 15:31
  - c. Will come to ruin 10:8
  - d. Will experience dishonor and shame. 11:2; 13:18
  - e. Will end in poverty and shame for those who neglect discipline and rebuke. 13:18
  - f. Plans are frustrated without counsel. 15:22
  - g. Rejecting rebuke and discipline rejects yourself 15:32
  - h. Rejecting correction and counsel by others kills intimacy in relationships. If you won't receive It results in anger shutting down the relationship which becomes not one of, then the other

person can say nothing about the things that would help you change. The relationship is one-sided and therefore no longer growing or intimate.

### 3. How God wants us to receive His counsel,

#### a. Repent: 1:23 Turn (change direction, repent) to my reproof.

- i. Illustration: David receiving rebuke of Nathan. 2 Samuel 2:1-15
- ii. Read Result: Psalm 51:2-10

#### b. Rejoice

- i. See the rebuke as ultimately God's rebuke from love. 1:23, 30. MY reproof; Heb. 12
- ii. Love and appreciate the person giving you the correction. Why? It is evidence of his love for you and god's love for you. God loves those whom he chastens  
**9:8 Do not rebuke a scoffer, or he will hate you;  
Rebuke a wise person and he will love you..**

#### c. Don't retaliate. Don't be overly concerned about the tone or manner. They have been holding it in a while. Focus on receiving it. Later if need be the issue of their tone can be addressed.

- i. Brings dishonor and insults on the one correcting him. 9:7
- ii. Will hate the one correcting him. 9:8

**Prov. 9:7-8**

**One who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself,  
And one who rebukes a wicked person gets <sup>[a]</sup>insults for himself  
do not rebuke a scoffer, or he will hate you;  
Rebuke a wise person and he will love you..**

**Hate you** Hatred of an enemy; loathe

#### d. Recognize if you don't receive counsel or rebuke.

- i. Only delights in revealing his thoughts NOT gaining understanding 18:2  
**18:2**

**A fool does not delight in understanding, But in revealing his own <sup>[a]</sup>mind.**

- ii. Is always right in his own eyes therefore doesn't listen to advice. 12:15  
**12:15**

**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,  
But a person who listens to advice is wise.**

- iii. Is overconfident therefore dismisses counsel. 13:10  
**13:10**

**Through overconfidence <sup>[a]</sup>comes nothing but strife,  
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.**

- iv. Is wise in his own eyes because of his wealth. 28:11  
**28:11**

**The rich person is wise in his own eyes,  
But the poor who has understanding <sup>[a]</sup>sees through him**

- v. Will not receive commands, will not submit to authority. 10:8

**10:8**

***The wise of heart will receive commands,***

***But <sup>[a]</sup>a babbling fool will come to ruin.***

**Receive** meant to willingly receive, accept; to Grasp, take hold of, like grabbing a staff, (ex. 17:5);

- Accept, receive positively

**Commands** (Heb. Miswah)

- Authoritative instruction from parents, boss, a king, leaders
- The one who will not receive instruction or counsel has a problem with authority. He resents someone telling him what to do because he has a high opinion of himself as not needing anyone over him.

**He equates rebuke, correction with authority over him, a challenge to his own rule of himself. He refuses to separate correction from personal challenge to His authority. Husbands sometimes do this, resenting their wife's counsel.**

- e. **Don't get Defensive and deflects** . Angry, sarcastic, blame shifting

Eg. Cain – rejected God's counsel re anger and then said sarcastically and defiantly to God: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Rather than admit his sin to God he deflected the issue as a problem with God wanting him to watch out for his brother.

Conclusion: to become a person who receives godly counsel and rebuke requires complete change in the way you think. Isaiah 55:1-9 describes this need to renounce your own reasoning and view and acknowledge God's way is right. It requires repentance for resisting God's counsel, not simply man's. It will result in God's forgiveness and help in your life:

**Isaiah 55:109**

***Seek the Lord while He may be found;***

***Call upon Him while He is near.***

***<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way***

***And the unrighteous man his thoughts;***

***And let him return to the Lord,***

***And He will have compassion on him,***

***And to our God,***

***For He will abundantly pardon.***

***<sup>8</sup>"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,***

***Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.***

***<sup>9</sup>"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,***

***So are My ways higher than your ways***

***And My thoughts than your thoughts.***