

Accepting Correction

7-19-26

2Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

Godly sorrow brings (change of mind) that leads to (safety and rescue) and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

The first word use in parentheses is repentance. This word literally means *change of mind*, which I use here for clarification. The second word used in parentheses is salvation. Based on the context this word may also be interpreted as *rescue, safety, or deliver*. Salvation, accepting Jesus as our Savior has already been fully explained in Chapters 1-5. So, I do not believe this is being repeated here. Thus, based on the context I use “*rescue and safety*” here for clarification. Also, helping understand this verse, Bible scholars classify, First and Second Corinthian as corrective books addressing practical failures in the church. The aim was to correct abuses in the mental, moral, social, and spiritual life of the Corinthian congregation. These books respond to concrete problems rather than systematically unfold theological truth. To see change and growth it necessary to appropriately receive correction.

Accepting God's correction is beneficial. Not accepting HIS correction is worldly and does not lead to a change of mind but has the deadly effect of producing resentment or bitterness. Thus, God describes the godly or correct way to accept correction. Not only is this the way we should accept correction, but it is also how we can recognize if another person is correctly accepting correction. How to accept correction:

2Corinthians 7:11 (NIV)

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.

Accepting correction:

#1 What earnestness – this means act quickly. They immediately act on what they have been told.

#2 What eagerness to clear yourselves – this means they willingly recognize the issue and give an apology. They fully take ownership and apologize.

#3 What indignation – They are tremendously disappointed and annoyed at their failure.

#4 What alarm – This means “flight” caused by being scared. They are so scared they immediately flee from the issue.

#5 What longing – This means earnest (vehement) desire. They have a vehement desire to remove themselves from the issue.

#6 What concern (ESV zeal) – This means earnest concern. They have a heartfelt intense concern.

#7 What readiness to see justice done (ESV punishment). They want to avenge the wrong. They want to be free from allegation.

Note the closing sentence, “At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.” This is tremendously insightful. When anyone responds to correction in such a manner, there is absolute assurance they heard you, changed their mind, will take corrective actions, and most importantly, they can be trusted. For instance, when you tell a child don’t get in the cookie jar and he says can I just put my hand beside it or you tell him to stay in the yard and he continually swings on the gate in the yard. Don’t be fooled. These actions are not godly. This translates to adults.

Bottom line you can't trust them. These responses prove that there was no change of mind and total lack of sincerity. They just got caught and never accepted heartfelt correction. Wisdom accepts correction.

Proverbs 15:31–32 (NIV)

³¹Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. ³²Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

Interestingly, this was not just for the people being corrected, but also people giving correction.

2Corinthians 7:12 (NIV)

So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.

Elders in the church and other leaders need to be obedient and give correction and be able to discern when correction is sincerely received.

2Corinthians 2:9 (NIV)

Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything.

Accepting correction is necessary for spiritual growth. We stand on one foundation and one truth that all correction based on, Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”