

Transformation Group Training #12

- I. Introduction
 - A. We need to talk about how to receive correction well.
- II. Proverbs identifies some very wrong ways to respond to correction.
 - A. The avoider
 1. Proverbs 15:32; 18:1
 - B. The attacker
 1. Proverbs 9:7-9
 - C. The overtalker
 1. Proverbs 10:8; 12:15
 - D. The know it all
 1. Proverbs 18:2
 - E. The denier
 1. Proverbs 10:23; 14:9
 - F. The blamer
 1. Adam and Eve!
 - G. The all talk no action
 1. Proverbs 26:16
 - H. The defender
 1. Proverbs 26:11,12
 - I. The overreacter

1. Proverbs 18:19

J. The dreamer

1. Proverbs 17:24

K. The hater

1. Proverbs 15:5,10

L. The Eeyore

1. Cain?

III. There is a much better way to take correction.

A. It starts with seeing it as valuable.

1. Psalm 141:5

B. And it is valuable!

1. Without instruction, I am actually making failure much more likely and my failure will impact the people around me.

(11:14)

2. If I really want to demonstrate that I am smart it is not by getting angry at the people who correct me and arguing with them, but instead by loving their reproof. (12:1)

3. The wise man isn't the know it all. He is the one who listens to advice. (12:15)

4. Friends that don't care enough about me to help me change, don't really love me. They hate me. (13:24)

5. The consequences of not having people in my life who will correct me can be very serious. Like for one, death. (15:10)
6. The idea of one man making a great plan by himself without seeking advice and counsel and carrying out that plan by himself without help from others is a myth. Lone ranger leadership is foolish leadership. (15:22)
7. Understanding is much more valuable than having everyone think I am smart. (18:2)
8. Even if the person is wrong, it's not going to help the situation move forward if I get angry with him. (19:11)
9. The moment I stop listening to instruction is the moment I begin to walk away from knowledge. (19:27)
10. I am not the only one who needs to be corrected. This is common for all people. I don't need to act like this is such a huge surprise. (20:9)
11. It is through painful instruction that God actually changes me. (20:30)
12. That feeling, where I feel like I am so much smarter than everyone else, pretty much proves I am not. (26:12)
13. Enemies are good at flattering, friends, not so much. (27:6)

14. Long term, the person who loves me enough to graciously challenge me will be of even greater benefit than the person who continually ignores the places I need to grow. (28:23)

C. But how do we actually develop the habit of receiving it well?

1. Believe the gospel!
2. If you are going to take correction well, you need to listen to make sure you truly understand the criticism they are making.
3. Watch out for the sin of pride, especially as expressed in a superior attitude to the person correcting you or which takes the correction and makes it overly personal.
4. Help them correct you by graciously asking questions.
5. Carefully evaluate your life in light of whatever Scriptural passages they gave or if they don't give Scriptural passages, think of what principles you may have violated and be willing to repent for any actual sins you may have committed.
6. View this as an opportunity for self denial and embrace the opportunity to be humbled. Being humbled is always helpful if we respond appropriately.

7. Express sorrow for any ways in which the other person has felt pain as a result of your actions. If you have sinned, ask for forgiveness.
8. If you disagree with what has been said, instead of defending yourself, ask if you can take time to think more carefully and pray about the matter. You might ask them if you could seek outside input on the matter, and then allow them to suggest someone you could ask for further insight from.
9. If you do see what they are saying as an area that needs to change, see if you can come up with a plan together for moving toward either thinking more about the issue or actually changing and then express that plan verbally.
10. Thank them for loving you enough to correct you.
11. Ask them if they would pray for you and then set up a time to follow up with them in a little while. When you get together with them, give them the chance to share how they think you are doing and ways you can improve.

IV. Conclusion