

Proverbs 9:7–12

"How to Receive and Give Wisdom unto Salvation"

Do you receive rebukes wisely? Do you give them wisely? Pastor leads his family in a portion of the "Proverb of the day." In these six verses, we learn how giving and receiving rebukes gives us help in identifying whether we are on the way to eternal life and in making progress along that way.

(Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors in the auto-transcription below. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Proverbs chapter 9 beginning in verse 7. He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself. And he who rebukes a wicked man. Only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer lest he hates you. Rebuke a wise, man. And he will be still wiser. Teach adjust man. And he will increase in learning.

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me. Your days will be multiplied. And years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself. If you scoff. You will bear it.

Alone. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. There are those who are in places of authority that God has commanded to be an avenger and a rewarder for him. We learned this from both Romans and First Peter and they must therefore reward and avenge both with action and with words but we are often not in that position our connection to someone and we have some.

Instruction here about whether or not we should correct or rebuke them. There are many who do not share our world view. They have not even had the beginning of wisdom, which is the fear of the Lord and perhaps we can reason with them and appeal to the light of nature and even in many cases their own self-interest but the idea of correcting them and rebuking them so that, So that there might be a measure of real.

Improvement sanctification, you know, we would call sanctification. It just doesn't pan out because if you correct the sculper verse 7, you get shame for yourself and if you rebuke a wicked man, you might not just despise you he might even according to verse seven harm you. And so verse eight begins do not correct a scoffer lest he hate you in the first thing we must do when we hear this is to make sure that we are not responding.

Like the scoffer or the wicked because as I'm sure you have experienced yourself as well there is that remaining fleshliness that remaining sin in us even after one comes to faith in Jesus Christ that immediately recoils resists despises gets angry at irritated hostile towards being corrected or rebuked but as we're about to see the way that a wise.

Man or a just man responds is different than the way the scoffer or the wicked man responds, so one of the things to see in our own hearts is how much we still respond like the scoffer or the wicked who does not have the fear of the Lord and to foster instead and dependence upon God crying out to him and also by use of his means a response to being corrected or rebuked that is like the wise man who fears the Lord and the just man, so feed our new nature and, Reinforce our new nature in Christ and kill the old man by the help of the spirit rejoicing that the spirit lost against the flesh and so we have an almighty partner in this battle and this is I think one of the hardest parts of the battle is sin being able to be thankful for.

And learn from and even love the person who gives you correction to love someone for it to consider it as blessing oil on the head or affection a kiss from the lips as other scriptures say so the first thing is to make sure that we are not acting like the scoffer of the wicked man the other thing is to identify those who are sometimes this doesn't happen until you've tried to give the correction to rebuke and the response you get falls into versus seven to eight.

A not from verse eight be to nine and when you get that response you just note that and tuck away the note in your heart and your mind and it may be that this is a believer who is struggling maybe not so well with the same thing that we all fight against and how we receive correction and so you might decide well, I need to be wiser about how to confront them or.

Suggest things or observe things to them from God's word and from their actions and it might be after a few times trying a few different ways you conclude that you are not the one to do it but you might even and this is difficult because you're supposed to give the judgment of charity to someone who's a member in good standing and this is why.

At some point you would need to pursue Matthew 18 with someone depending on whether it's something that's fractured the relationship like Matthew 18 talks about or even just something that is a sin that has intract your brother like Galatians 6 verse 1 talks about. But if someone is an unbeliever it's much clearer after one or two attempts you can conclude we just don't share the same worldview and then scoffing or sorry not coughing you should not be a scoffer at all correcting and rebuking may not be what you need to do with them but rather worn of danger and offer grace, especially offer Jesus Christ as the one whom held deserving sinners must have and who has given himself out of love.

For hell deserving sinners because we want to see them become one of these he fears the Lord that's the beginning of wisdom and they won't really be able to desire to honor God and love neighbor from the heart until they are one who fears the Lord and so that's how to think about and interact with the scoffer, how about the wise man or the just man and that's in verse eight B through the end of verse nine rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

And so there's not a big secret who is the wise man because we read in verse 10 the fear of Yahweh is beginning of wisdom, that's not the first time that we have

read that in this book and so. Rebuke wise man, and he will love you. It's not for us to assume the motives of others, but if this is what we read about the wise man, and the first thing to do is yeah, I want to be that wise man.

I want to love those who rebuke me for the sake of their rebuking now if we're doing our best to benefit from someone's rebukes and they get to be very much in the habit of giving them and we get to be in the habit of receiving them and when we receive one we consider whatever portion of scripture teaches, whatever it is that they are claiming to rebuke us upon.

And we compare it to what we are thinking and saying and doing but if over the course of time you find that you are unable to benefit from it because there isn't a significant disconnect between how you are acting and what the scripture says. Then out of love you may say to them you keep rebuking me for these things and I thank you for it but I'm unable to put into practice where you were telling me to do or correcting me for and here's why and you explain to them from the scripture and the steps you perhaps you have taken or whatever you may end up what I'm saying is having to rebuke someone for giving you a rebuke.

And in that point at that point you may discover that you're back in verse seven and the first half of verse eight because the person who was rebuking you whom you were loving and trying to benefit from their rebukes does not necessarily mean they are wise, you know, balance donkey prophesied soul.

King Saul prophesied and there are many whose words may be male intended or unwisely. You know, not produced from wisdom or understanding on their part and yet we may get some benefit from it so this isn't saying necessarily that all rebukes are right, although they all do us good by coming in the providence of God and we can trust him about that but responding well to God that fearing the Lord and knowing that he is working even through those who rebuke us poorly enables us to have affection and appreciation for the person who is rebuking us even if we may have to come to a place where we have to rebuke them for the rebuke so am I the wise man who has affection for someone on account of the rebuking me given structure to a wise man, and he will be still wiser wise person always takes the opportunity to learn what he can teach a just man, someone who has abandoned the idea of his own righteousness and has hoped in Christ alone.

For righteousness and if we have that humility that comes with saving faith of not trusting in ourselves or having my opinion of ourselves, but trusting only in Christ and having an infinitely high opinion of in then we will be this wise verse nine a or just / righteous verse nine be man who gains wisdom and learning from being instructed or taught or abute the other thing is to recognize those with him we can have this mutual relationship with right because if we find,

Someone else who loves you for rebuking or teaching or telling them what you have learned from the Bible recently and and they learn that you will love them and appreciate them and learn from them as they might instruct you or rebuke you are teaching you maybe tell you what they understood from the sermon that was new

and surprising and helpful to them, then we will be those who sharpen one another's faces as the other proverb says and we all have this mutual love and care.

Crease and the Lord will use us to strengthen and grow one another and what a blessing what a blessing that is but it must start from knowing the Lord and trusting in him and knowing that he is going to do us everlasting good for when he says for by me your days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to you and you say well there are righteous ones and wise ones you die young, why is that well?

Have years of life ceased to be added to them. Where they destroyed in their death. Or were they rather instead translated to glory and so there is this importance in interacting with one another that verses 7 through 9 describe but the much higher importance is that we interact with the Lord that's why that's what is the foundation as we've been saying of learning to have good relationships with one another that build one another up in in the Lord, but ultimately the primary relationship is the relationship that you have.

With God himself that you fear him live in wonder at him and as worship unto him the fear of the Lord living in wonder at him and as worship unto him that you know him and that you look to him for all of your blessing and indeed if you do so it will be everlasting blessing and this is something that you are the only one who can do for you.

I can't trust in the Lord for you I can teach you lots of things about him but I can't to know him for you you have to trust in him for yourself you have to know him yourself you are the only one who can be certain that he is yours and you are his and that all of your good comes from him and that's where verse 12 takes us if you are wise, you are wise for yourself if you have the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom and you're going to end up.

Blessed forever by faith in Jesus Christ that is between you and God and no one else can be part of that transaction between you and God and if you scoff you will bear it alone each one of us are responsible for the hell that we deserve and that we will receive if we do not trust in Christ if we do not belong to the Lord by faith and so let us learn from these verses to interact rightly with one another but most of all.

To interact rightly with the Lord through faith in Jesus Christ. Trust him live in wonder at him live as worship of him and to know that he is the one who gives us everlasting and unlimited blessing. That's great. My father in heaven we thank you for this portion of your word surely figuring out how to interact with other sinners as those who are ourselves centers is a big part of our life.

And so we pray that you would help us to trust in you and desire to honor you so that we might receive and respond to correction or rebuke or instruction. Well, we pray that you would give us wisdom and grace for understanding what is going on if

we try to love someone else and this way and, To interpret their response and get better at how we do it but ultimately to know what category in these verses we are finding ourselves in Lord I pray for my children that they would grow in skill and applying what we have heard here, but most of all grant to us to know you to be able to receive correction from you even on the lips of someone who is hateful that we would know your love for us who are never hateful to it.

And that we would know it most of all in Christ whom you gave in that love to be our righteousness to be our sacrifice to be the guarantee of our everlasting blessedness. Make us to walk with you by faith in Him by the help of your spirit that we would live our lives in the fear of the Lord wondering at you adoring you and offering everything we do as service and sacrifice unto you.

We ask it all. In the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.