



Study 7

THE

CORRECTING

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS

“*I need to correct you!*” How do you feel when you hear those words? If you feel joy and excitement with the possibility of having a person who loves and cares deeply for you gently guide you out of ignorant belief or behaviour into true knowledge and stronger character, I envy you! If, on the other hand, you hear those words with great trepidation and even fear, then I know how you feel! If I could over-generalise the church into two types of believers, I might call some Christians: “correctors”, and the others: “encouragers”. But this would be an unfair distinction because there are some Christians who have discovered how to *correct with encouragement*. These Christians have been seasoned with much loving correction themselves and have developed an unusual amount of wisdom in knowing how to help others by gently correcting them.

1. What did Paul hope that Timothy would do and what did he hope it might achieve? (2Tim. 2:25)



BEING CORRECTED

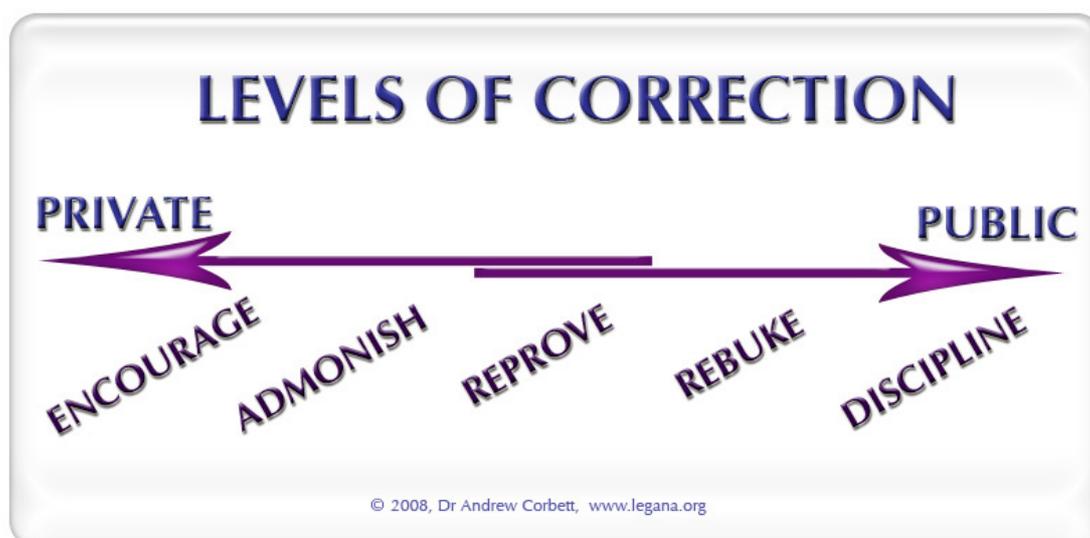
For us to grow we must be corrected.

2. When God uses someone to correct us, what should our attitude be according to Proverbs 3:11? (Also, Proverbs 15:10) How does this contrast with Proverbs 6:23?

3. What is the warning to those of us who hate being corrected? (Proverbs 5:23)

4. Based on 2Timothy 3:16-17, what are some of the things that the ministry of God's Scriptures are designed to achieve in our lives? Have you ever experienced this?

The Bible uses various words to describe the different levels of correction: **encourage** > **admonish** > **reprove** > **rebuke** > **discipline**. The greater the need for correction, the greater the level of correction needed.





5. What kind of heart would someone need to only ever be corrected by encouragement? Do you have this kind of attitude?

It seems that if we are hungry for God and His Word, especially His Word (“*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*”), we are more likely to be more open to being corrected (“*teaching and admonishing one another*”) without becoming defensive or hostile (“*with thankfulness in your hearts to God*”, note Colossians 3:16).

6. What kind of heart did Paul expect of the Corinthians when he wrote 1Corinthians 14:1?

CORRECTING

If we love and care for someone we will share our concerns with them about their life.

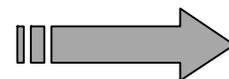
7. Drawing on the principle found in Hebrews 12:6, how *should* we feel about being corrected by someone?

8. What attitude does First Thessalonians 5:14 instruct correctors to have?

9. According to Proverbs 9:8, who should correctors be cautious of?

...reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

Proverbs 19:25b



Pastors and elders have a shepherd's duty to correct those in their charge. If you have never been corrected by your pastor or elder- you have never been shepherded!

10. What response do shepherded believers owe their shepherds and why? (Note 1Thessalonians 5:12)
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Consider who you allow to correct you. What qualities do these people have? Why do you especially listen and take to heart *their* correction? What role does *trust* play in receiving correction from someone? What is necessary for *trust* to develop between you and those you allow to correct you?

WHEN YOU CAN'T CORRECT...

Allowing for the discussion based on the previous set of questions above, as much as you might want to, there are certain situations in which you must *not* correct someone.

1. ***Do not correct someone with whom you have no relational authority*** (that is, for example- if you are not a High Court Justice carrying out the process of justice, or a police-officer arresting someone, a principal of a school disciplining a student, or the parent of an unruly child. This especially applies to someone you have just met!).
2. ***Do not correct someone when they have shared their opinion, thoughts or feelings*** (that is, for example- when you're having a casual conversation with a group of friends and someone says, "*I think that I've been really battling within myself lately.*" This kind of comment invites *compassion* not correction.)
3. ***Do not correct someone when the only means you have to do so is SMS ("phone text messaging")***.

Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

2Thessalonians 3:15

11. What does Titus 3:10 instruct us to do with someone who causes divisions and will not be corrected?
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May God give us the grace to be corrected when we needed it and the grace to correct a brother or sister in Christ with sincere love.

Amen.