

Correcting the Wise or the Fool?

by Wayne Goff

If you asked anyone as to whether it would be good to correct a wise person or a fool, I'm pretty sure that everyone would say it is better to correct a wise person. And indeed the Bible supports that answer. But the real question for each of us is this: "Do **I** respond to constructive criticism like a wise person or like a fool?" With that in mind, consider the following:

- ❖ **Proverbs 9:8b** ~ "...Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you."
- ❖ **Proverbs 9:9** ~ "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
- ❖ **Proverbs 15:32b** ~ "...he who heeds rebuke gets understanding."
- ❖ **Proverbs 13:18b** ~ "...he who regards a rebuke will be honored."
- ❖ **Proverbs 17:10** ~ "Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool."
- ❖ **Proverbs 27:6a** ~ "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, . . ."

All of us know how difficult it is to accept constructive criticisms, rebukes, etc. But the wise will take it to heart, even if it takes a little bit of time to get over the apparent "hurt." Today, based on the reaction of so many people in our society, there are more "fools" than "wise" people walking around.

- ❖ **Proverbs 23:9** ~ "Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words."
- ❖ **Proverbs 12:1b** ~ "...he who hates correction is stupid."
- ❖ **Proverbs 1:7b** ~ "...fools despise wisdom and instruction."
- ❖ **Proverbs 10:17b** ~ "...he who refuses correction goes astray."
- ❖ **Proverbs 13:13a** ~ "He who despises the word will be destroyed,..."

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