

Proverbs Discussions

Giving and Receiving Correction

Proverbs 9:7-12

1. The target audience for Proverbs (Prov. 9:4, 16, see also Prov. 1:4-5)
2. Overview of Proverbs 9:7-12
3. Outline of passage:
 - A. The Consequences for the Counselor (Prov. 9:7-9)
 - B. The Basis of Wisdom (Prov. 9:10)
 - C. The Consequences for the Hearer (Prov. 9:11-12)
4. Small Group Questions & Discussion:
 - A. Look at Proverbs 9:7-8. How does understanding the results of reproof or correcting a wicked scoffer relate to sharing the gospel with these same people (see Matthew 7:6)?
 - B. Following up on the above question: What are some other things that we can do (activities, conversation topics, etc.) when interacting with someone who is responding as a scoffer when your goal is either evangelism of the lost or the correction of a professing believer?
 - C. Continuing with Proverbs 9:7-8. Is there a point at which you should seek to no longer converse with scoffers and maybe even seek to avoid conversations or interactions with them in general? (hint: feel free to consult Romans 16:17, 2 Timothy 2:16, or Titus 3:9 in discussing this question)
 - D. No one enjoys being shown that they are wrong. What are some ways of instruction or correction that you have responded to the best? (hint: Think of an

example where you were corrected and you received it well and compare that to a time when you were corrected and didn't receive it well. Note any differences in the way that the other person delivered the correction in these two situations?)

- E. Following up on the above question: While thinking of those same examples, were your own actions different in the two instances? Comparing the times when you received correction well with the time that you received it poorly, what is something that you can focus on for improving whenever you are given correction so that you respond wisely?
 - F. Look at Proverbs 9:10. What does this mean? (hint: the two lines of verse 10 are complimentary to one another and are saying essentially the same thing).
 - G. Continuing with Proverbs 9:10, how should this truth effect the way that you hear and respond to correction? How should it effect the way that you give correction? Think of and discuss some examples for both.
 - H. Look at Proverbs 9:12. This verse is emphasizing the need for the individual to apply these admonitions (vs.7-10). Discuss why is this emphasis important to understand and take to heart?
5. A Definition: To Fear the Lord
A fear of the Lord is the starting point and the basic building block of true knowledge, of wisdom, and of the faithful Christian life (Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 2 Cor. 5:11), whereas not fearing God is one of the many ways that unbelievers are characterized (Rom. 3:18). The fear of the Lord is an informed (Deut. 4:10) and awe-filled (Jer. 5:22) affectionate (Ps. 130:4) reverence for (Lev. 25:17), reliance upon (Isa. 50:10), and submission to (Deut. 5:29) the Triune God (Jer. 32:40).