



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Proverbs: Becoming Wise in Correction

Speaker: Matthew Manno, NextGen Pastor

Scripture: Proverbs 12:1

12 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
but whoever hates correction is stupid. *(NIV)*

Sermon Outline:

Correction is an everyday part of our lives and something that is unavoidable. Even though we know this truth, most of us do not enjoy being corrected.

The way we handle correction is a good indicator of our level of maturity.

Correction between us and the people in our lives. This is the type of correction that so many of us have a problem with.

Book of Proverbs has a lot to share about correction. The Bible is pointing us away from foolishness and into correction.

- Discipline = Instruction. We are to learn to love correction in the sense of being open to it when it comes our way and maybe even adding it to our lives.
- Connection Before Correction. Most effective correction happens when the other person knows that we care for them.

How can we do correction well? We do this through the receiving and giving of correction.

When Receiving Correction:

- It's better to receive than give. Jesus always connects us before he corrects us.
- Pay attention to our defensiveness. Response to correction is revealing of our level of wisdom.
- Listen to God's direction. God will never bring correction into your life that points you in opposite direction.
- Remember correction is a gift. Not only for you but for everyone around you.

When Giving Correction:

- Ask questions, then listen. Before we speak, it is better to be sure we have all the facts of what is happening.
- Be gracious but tell the truth. We need to be careful with our words and tone when speaking with one another.
- Point out what's wrong, point to something better. You can always point someone to Jesus.

The point of correction is to make sure that people are pointed toward Jesus and have an opportunity to see Christ.

May we be examples of the type of correction that not only reflects Jesus Christ but points people to Jesus.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Matthew Manno, NextGen Pastor continues our sermon series on the book of Proverbs. Pastor Matt focuses on what it means to be wise on correction and how we are to handle correction in the way of Jesus.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?

2. In your family of origin, what type of correction did you receive from those around you? Was your experience one where you were corrected with harsh words not being heard or seen while you were being corrected? Or was your experience one where the person correcting you was present with you first, asking questions and then correcting you from a place of love? How does this experience inform the way you experience correction now? Journal your responses to these questions, offering them up to God in your quiet time.
3. How do you feel when you hear that the way we handle correction is a good indicator of our level of maturity? When you are corrected, how offended do you get? Do your responses confirm that you are more mature or less mature in the way you respond when you receive correction? Share your responses and thoughts with your small group or a trusted brother or sister in Christ.
4. How can you begin to become open to the idea of learning to love correction this week? Maybe you schedule a meeting to speak with someone in your life – a mentor, parent, boss, or sibling? Lift this up to God, asking for wisdom and discernment on who you might reach out to.
5. Has anyone given you the gift of connecting with you before telling you that you were wrong? Can you start asking questions when correcting someone, becoming open to hearing their feelings underneath whatever the facts on the surface might be? Seek out God's help this week, as you encounter situations where you might begin using this skill of connecting before correcting.
6. When it comes to doing correction well, where do you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to? Which one of the two lists above - When Receiving Correction or When Giving Correction – do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to so that you are able to point others to Jesus?