

Biblical Reproof

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“Be on your guard; if your brother sins, rebuke him” (Luke 17:3).

The word translated rebuke carries with it the idea of judicial indictment pressed against an individual until he/she is brought to conviction. However, the Bible is very clear in this matter.

GUIDELINES TO GOVERN

1. Examine your motives. Look up Galatians 6:1. The word restore in this verse metaphorically relates to the mending or setting of a bone that is broken. The only motive is not to expose sin. The higher motive is to “Make useful again” or “restore to the former purpose.”
2. Examine your own life first. Read Matthew 7:3-5. If you are not more concerned with your own sins than the sins of others, you cannot be in a proper frame of mind for Biblical Reproof.
3. Choose the best time when undivided attention can be given to the matters at hand. Ecclesiastes 3:7
4. Choose the right words. Read Proverbs 15:28. Biblical terminology is best.
5. Comfort before you correct. Read Proverbs 27:6
6. Be prepared to suggest a Biblical solution. Many times this involves identifying and practicing a righteous alternative to the sinful behavior that is to be put off.
7. Reproof should contain a spirit of gentleness. See Proverbs 28:23

RESPONDING TO REPROOF

1. SINFUL RESPONSES INCLUDE:
 - A. Despise Reproof (Proverbs 1:30)
 - B. Refuse Reproof (Proverbs 10:17)

 - C. Hate Reproof (Proverbs 15:10)
 - D. Missing the point. Behind every action, there is a sinful attitude or motive that needs to be explored by every Christian if we would truly repent.
 - E. Resorting to one of the following:
 - (1) Pouting

- (2) Blame Shifting
 - (3) Avoidance
 - (4) Explosive anger
 - (5) Plunge deeper into sin
 - (6) Silent treatment
 - (7) Quoting Scripture out of context
 - (8) Shifting the focus to their accuser's many sins
2. PROPER RESPONSES
- A. Thank God (Psalm 141:5)
 - B. Look inwardly and perform self-examination for underlying sins (Proverbs 17:10)
 - C. Show gratitude to those who would love you enough to bring reproof ((Proverbs 9:8)
 - D. Seek God in prayer (Lamentations 3:37)
 - E. Take necessary steps to correct the problem (James 1:22)