

11. Accept Rebuke

Now a rebuke is not always a pleasant thing but in the kingdom of God it is a necessary thing. The reality is that we go astray and sin against the living God, even if we are Christians. On a bad day the only difference between the Christian and the non-Christian is that the Christian *knows* that they have done wrong. But because of the old sinful nature that still lingers there, and which will never be completely gone this side of heaven, we are often hesitant to acknowledge and confess the wrong.

Adam and Eve gave us the clearest examples of what happens. They did wrong (Gen 3:1-6), they realized their state (v.7), became fearful and hid when God came (v.8-10) and then justified their actions (v.12, 13) by blaming others. No, we're not always very good at facing up to the truth about ourselves and our sin. The truth is for many of us, that if we can, we will get away with it, and that's why we need someone to face up to us with the truth.

Rebuking then, is confronting sin and failures with the truth. Another way the Lord does this is through our conscience using the Holy Spirit to convict (John 16:8) us of our wrong doing. Sometimes He will rebuke us through another person, a prophet or simply a friend or someone close to us who observes our sin and loves us enough to confront us with it. If someone takes time, care, and love to rebuke us, will we be open to receive it? Indeed "*speaking the truth in love*" (Eph. 4:15) will be one of the key ways we will grow into maturity.

Accept Rebuke Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 11
30-Jul	Proverbs 15:32
31-Jul	Hebrews 12:6
1-Aug	Proverbs 9:8
2-Aug	Ecclesiastes 7:5
3-Aug	Revelation 3:19
4-Aug	Hebrews 12:9-10
5-Aug	Hebrews 12:11-13

Accept Rebuke

PART 1

Passage(s) to Study

Read 2 Samuel 11-12. There we find the account of how David saw Bathsheba bathing and took her to himself and then used his position of power to have her husband murdered. In the closing words of chapter 11 we read, *“But the thing David had done displeased the LORD”* (11:27). Thus God sends the prophet Nathan to Rebuke King David in chapter 12.

Read: How did David respond to the rebuke from Nathan? Did he deny responsibility or did he repent? David’s full response to God’s rebuke is recorded in Psalms 51. In your own words describe what characterized David’s response to God.

PART 2

Questions to Ponder

[Q] We find rebuke coming at various times in Jesus ministry and in the life of the early church. According to the following verses what types of things are individuals being rebuked for? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses?

Read: Matthew 8:26, 9:4, 11:20, 14:31, 15:16, 16:23; Acts 5:3-5, 9-10

[Q] The most common response to rebuke is insult and hatred. Proverbs has much to say in regards to rebuke. From the following verses record the difference between one who accepts rebuke and one who despise it. What is the outcome of each? Which one best describes you right now?

Read: Proverbs 9:7-9, 10:17, 12:1, 13:1, 18, 15:12, 31-32, 17:10, 19:25, 25:12, 28:23

[Q] Do you think it is important for us to understand the necessity of rebuking our brothers and sisters in Christ and to also accept it from them? Why or why not? What do you think may be lacking in someone that resists either aspect of rebuke?

For further study: 2 Tim. 3:16 tells us that the Word of God is profitable for rebuking and God often uses it for that purpose. Spend time in Proverbs 1 (particularly v. 20-33) and take note of the appropriate response to God’s Word, or as it is stated in this instance, Wisdom.

PART 3

Making it Stick

Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on accepting rebuke.

Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that is sensitive to and receives rebuke for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:

Prayer: *O God, please help me to be sensitive to rebuke both from you and the body of Christ. Please create in me a desire for wisdom and correction so that I may walk in all your ways. Forgive me for so often being a fool and ignoring it. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Recommended resources:

‘Battling Unbelief’ by John Piper