

Living A Fool Proof Life Pt. 2

I. So why do many people hate correction?

1. Pride

This leaves them all puffed up like a puffer fish!

2. Low self-esteem

3. Lack of godly wisdom

Pr. 18:2,6-7 - A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions. A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

Pr. 17:28 - Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Ecc. 10:2-3 - The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. Even as he walks along the road, the fool lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is.

II. Seven Reasons to Embrace Correction:

1. It will keep you from being stupid!

Pr. 12:1 - Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Pr. 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline

Pr. 1:22 - "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?

Pr. 15:5 - A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Pr. 12:15 - The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Pr. 15:31 - He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

2. It will bring prosperity to you!

Pr. 13:18a - He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame,

Pr. 17:16 - Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

Pr. 25:12 - Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

Pr. 10:8 - The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

3. It will keep you in God's will!

Pr. 10:17 NKJV - He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray. NIV- He who heeds discipline SHOWS THE WAY TO LIFE, but whoever ignores correction LEADS OTHERS astray.

4. It will bring you to maturity!

Pr. 17:10 - A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.

Pr. 13:1 - A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

Pr. 15:12 - A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise.

NKJV - A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.

Pr. 15:31-32 - He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

Pr. 19:25 - Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.

5. It will bring honor to you!

Pr. 26:1 - Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, honor is not fitting for a fool.

Pr. 15:33 - The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Pr. 3:35 - The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

Pr. 13:18b - but whoever heeds correction is honored.

6. It will keep you alive!

Pr. 15:10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.

Pr. 29:1 - A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

Pr. 5:22-23 - The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

7. It will keep you from looking back at your life with regret!

Pr. 5:11-12 - At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"

III. Giving A Corrective Word:

1. It must be done with a right motivation!

2. It must be done in love!

Pr. 27:5 - Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Pr. 9:6-12 - Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding. "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

You've been presented with truth...

Now you've got to decide!

Illus: I ran across a poem written by a well known theologian named Dr. suess...

Did I ever tell you about the young Zoad?
Who came to a sign at the fork of the road...

He looked one way and the other way too...
The Zoad had to make up his mind what to do!

Well, the Zoad scratched his head, and his chin, and his pants.
And he said to himself, "I'll be taking a chance."

If I go to Place One, that place may be hot...
So how will I know if I like it or not?

On the other hand, though, I'll feel such a fool...
If I go to Place Two and find it's too cool!

In that case I may catch a chill and turn blue...
So Place One may be best and not Place Two.

Play safe," cried the Zoad, "I'll play safe, I'm no dunce...
I'll simply start off to both places at once!

And that's how the Zoad who would not take a chance...
Went no place at all with a split in his pants!