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**CORRECTING & CALLING OUT FALSE
TEACHINGS**

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Calling Out False Teachings.

- What does the bible say about correcting anyone or calling out false teachings?
- Is it biblical for the laymen of the faith to call out those in the pulpit, like Pastors, teachers, or the elders of the church?
- Is it even biblical for a believer to bring biblical correction to any brother and sister in Christ?

These questions are even more of importance today than ever. Within Christianity today there is an ever-growing group of believers that believe and are teaching that if you question or callout a pastor or leader in the church as a false teacher you are sinning against God Himself.

The truth is that ungodly tolerance has allowed too many churches in the world to be filled with false teachers and apostles. It is sinful tolerance that allows workers of iniquity with their perverted gospel to preach damnation to so many souls.

2 Peter 2:1-3 (KJV) But there were false prophets also among the people, **even as there shall be false teachers among you**, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. **2** And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. **3** And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

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In most churches the fear of controversy is so great that preachers and congregations will settle for peace at **any cost**. Even the cost of the truth – God’s truth. Their rationality is that peace is all-important and correcting anyone or calling out false teachings brings division to the church.

Peace is a biblical ideal, but so is **PURITY**. The peace of the church should **NEVER** be bought at the price of the purity of the church.

There are several reasons that we shy away from correcting others and fear is one of them. Many pastors are afraid to deal with sinning church members just like most people today with exaggerated kindness, will tolerate teachers of iniquity in their pulpits because those preaching are such smooth-mannered and friendly persons. **They would rather allow error to be preached and souls to be deceived than hurt the preacher’s feelings.** They rather let doctrines of demons be preached than to lose “friends” within the church! They rather allow false and cancerous teachings to kill its victim than having the preacher appear to be cruel. They rather let their “friends” die and possibly go to hell because they are disobedient to YHWH, than getting their hands dirty by proclaiming the true gospel and telling them they are going to hell because they have been indoctrinated with a counterfeit plan of salvation! ...The best thing that could happen to some called Christian ministers of today is that they should be denounced in God’s name by their hearers. **Colossians 2:8 (KJV)** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

One key to overcoming the fear of correcting those in sin or error is to recognize that if we know Christ, we are the Lord’s bondservant. And as such, He will hold us accountable for being faithful to Him.

We need to fear God more than we fear people and recognize that obedience to His command to love others requires correcting them if you see them heading for that cliff. **Proverbs 27:5 (KJV)** **Open rebuke is better than secret love.**

Whether we like it or not, we all need to learn how to give biblical correction to those who are in sin or in serious doctrinal error. Without correction, churches and families tend to run into the ditch. But, as always, we must appeal to Scripture for our final answer to all matters. So, what does the bible teach about correcting erroneous doctrine or calling out false teachers? **Romans 16:17 (KJV)** Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them** which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

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Ephesians 5:11 (KJV) And **have no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them**.

Titus 3:10 (KJV) A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition **reject**;

1 Timothy 5:20 (KJV) Them that sin **rebuke before all**, that others also may fear.

1 Corinthians 11:19 (KJV) For there must be also heresies among you, that they **which are approved may be made manifest among you**.

As can be seen in those verses, Marking, correcting, and rebuking applies especially to church leaders, but it also applies to every disciple. We all have relationships that require at times, if we truly love others, for us to offer biblical correction. So, although it is never a pleasant task, it is a commandment and a part of biblical love. Identifying, reproving, rejecting, and marking **them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine** of the LORD, is to be a regular part of the Christian life. In this day and age when the increase of false teaching and teachers continue mutating at an alarming rate, those who love the LORD must examine and test everything against the final authority of the Word of God. **See Study 15** “What is truth & what is error for more understanding.

Is it true that those who teach to correct false teachings or call out false teachers are sinning against God and are destroying the church because of it?

No, on the contrary, **it is sinful NOT to expose false teachers!**

Another factor that keeps us from correcting others is a misunderstanding of **Matthew 7:1 (KJV)** Judge not, that ye be not judged. This is one of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible. (See **Study 74** “Judging Others” for better understanding). If you keep reading, in verse 6 Christ talks about not giving what is holy to dogs and not casting your pearls before swine. **Obviously**, we must make some pretty harsh judgments to label someone a dog or a swine!

We cannot minister to people if we do not make some sort of judgment about their spiritual condition.

As Disciples of Christ, we are held accountable for progressively learning and proclaiming the whole will and council of God. Which includes correcting and warning others for false teachings and calling out those responsible for them. **Acts 20:26-32 (KJV)** Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. **27** For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. **28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath

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purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. **31** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. **32** And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Logically, in order for any believer to mark and avoid a false teachings for both them and others, one must expose and callout those false teachings. We constantly see throughout Scripture, both Christ and the Apostles calling out false teachers of the faith. Christ rebukes false teachers in **Matthew 23** and **Luke 11**, and even then we are shown in various verses other examples of disciples calling out false teachers. In the book of 2 Timothy, as an example, the Apostle Paul names a number of false teachers by name: **2 Timothy 2:17-18 (KJV)** And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is **Hymenaeus and Philetus;** **Who concerning the truth have erred,** saying that the resurrection is past already; **and overthrow the faith of some.** **2 Timothy 3:8 (KJV)** Now as **Jannes and Jambres** withstood Moses, so do **these also resist the truth:** men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. **2 Timothy 4:10 (KJV)** For **Demas** hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. **2 Timothy 4:14 (KJV)** **Alexander the coppersmith** **did me much evil:** the Lord reward him according to his works:

There is a biblical mandate to call out false teachers and their followers.

Another reason why we might not correct others: We are aware of sin in our own lives. We are **afraid** that if we try to correct someone else, they will point the finger back at us, and we know that we're guilty as charged. So, we do not bring up the other person's sin in hopes that he will not bring up our sin! But, Scripture commands us to deal with any known sin in our lives. That's why Paul's instruction of **2 Tim 2:21** of correction follows his exhortation on purging ourselves from sin. We do not have to be perfect to bring correction to others, or it would never get done. But we do have to also judge our own sins and purge them out of our lives.

What about laziness and procrastination? Many times, it may feel more of a hassle to correct than to let it go. We may feel it takes effort to arrange a time to get together. We feel it is stressful to talk about such matters. We feel and most likely will risk a

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backlash from the other person. But we are commanded to follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (**2 Tim 2:22**), and that always requires effort and risk. See **Study 16** “Our feelings” for better understanding.

Another reason we may not correct those in sin is that we have carelessly bought into the tolerant, relative morality of our culture. We mistakenly think that love means accepting the person, sin, and all, with no moral judgments about his behavior. But God’s Word gives us the absolute standards for godly and ungodly behavior. The consequence of sowing to the flesh is corruption, which isn’t good. **Love requires at least the attempting to correct. Galatians 6:8 (KJV) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**

Would the all-knowing God have put such warnings in His Word if being corrupted or poisoned were not possible?

The biggest way a person can be corrupted, or lose their salt is through false doctrines and philosophies that promote man over the Sovereignty of God.

Colossians 2:8 (KJV) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

As it can be seen through the Word of God, **there is a biblical mandate to correct and call out false teachers and their followers.** God allows false teachers in order to test whether or not the Church will be faithful in its biblical mandate to expose them and protect the flock from them. **False teachers are in essence part of the judgment of God to those who do not desire the truth of the Word of God by giving them what their heart truly desire. (Let this saying sink).**

Of course there is always more to it. Some doctrinal controversies are clearly important and worth correcting and defending vigorously. But some issues may not be worth dealing with, at least maybe not at that moment. A correct doctrine must always be the goal, but the correction of fruitless doctrinal controversies in the church must be temporarily put aside. **1 Cor 10:23 (KJV) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.**

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For example, correcting someone about the Sabbath keeping when the person does not even understand the concept of baptism would be a FOOLISH thing to do. Or correcting a Pastor about the rapture when he is teaching once saved always saved. Bottom line, we have to carefully choose and correct “primary and current” doctrinal issues before we run correcting every single doctrine someone may have wrong.

2 Timothy 2:23 (KJV) But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. **24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, **25** In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; **26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

Acts 2:44 (KJV) And all that believed were together, and **had all things common**; Divisions in the church come because of a lack of correction. They are because of bad doctrine.... UNCORRECTED doctrine! **1 Corinthians 1:10 (KJV)** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord “Jesus” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Divisions in the church because of doctrine is GOD’s way of saying “Someone is lacking knowledge” or “Someone is too PRIDEFUL to receive knowledge”!

Did anyone by any chance question or was offended by the change or addition of יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach to the name of “Jesus”?

Everything that is questioned or almost anything that offends is usually a lack of understanding or of knowledge, and it does not matter if it’s my lack of knowledge or understanding or anyone else’s. At the end of the day, if someone is incorrect, we should **always try to correct** them. See **Study 28** “An important point about Baptism & name calling” for more details on the name of Jesus. **Hosea 4:6 (KJV)** My **people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.....** **1 Cor 14:20 (KJV)** Brethren, **be not children in understanding**: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Proverbs 1:5 (KJV) A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

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I sound like a broken record, but this is what I keep telling everyone; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **So, you MUST Study to shew thyself approved unto God, to BECOME a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Scriptures 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Timothy 2:15.**

I will end with this: Proverbs 27:5 (KJV) Open rebuke is better than secret love. Some Pastors and disciples prefer to be in disobedience to God by avoiding receiving correction or even bringing correction to their loved ones. They prefer to turn a blind eye and allow their loved ones to continue in disobedience to God or even prefer allowing them to go to hell than to burden themselves. They allow their loved ones to stay captive in the devils snare, just because they are **afraid** of losing friendships or church members.

Wherever we stand in the above statement is what really shows how much we love ourselves more than we love others! I can only imagine Peter or Paul trying to stay away from preaching/correcting others just because they did not want to lose friends or members in the church!

This is plain and simple, no math needed here! Our Lord tell us in **John 15:10 (KJV) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.**

And you can correct me if I am wrong, but I have not seen anywhere in the gospel any type of “suggestions.” Whenever God tells us to do something, it is a COMMANDMENT, and not a suggestion. So, when He commands us to correct, reproof, instruct, ,,,, and we DISOBEY, it just means that we are disobedient and disobedience is the same as not abiding in His love! **see Study 36** “Love and Obedience. The 1st commandment” to understand how God’s love work.

Here is God’s warning to those who choose not to bring biblical doctrinal correction to other believers!

Ezekiel 33:7-9 (KJV) So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; **if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.** Nevertheless, if thou warn the

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wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Here is the warning to those that choose NOT to receive correction:

Proverbs 15:31-33 (KJV) The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise **32** He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. **33** The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 12:1 (KJV) Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

And here is some “Tylenol” for the “pain” of being corrected: 😊

Hebrews 12:11 (KJV) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

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