

## PROVE ME WRONG

-Ryan Parsons-

The most stinging words any ego can receive are, "You are wrong!" I know from experience. Those words have slapped me in the face many times. One way man's pride tries to combat being on the receiving end of these words is to become a declarer of them to others. The net result is a world that loves to shout them at one another, but they become increasingly combative when they hear them. You may have noticed this phenomenon occurring recently.

Proverbs 12:1

*Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.*

However, Proverbs frequently talks about the strange practice of reproof. Basically, it is the process of rebuke and correction. In essence, it is calling someone out or telling them, "You are wrong!" The book of Proverbs says that a person of wisdom is not the one who tells everyone else they are wrong, but is the one who accepts when told, "You are wrong!" Moreover, they are people who appreciate it and benefit from it.

Proverbs 9:8b

*reprove a wise man, and he will love you.*

A few of the consequences of ignoring this type of correction are:

Stupidity (12:1)

Death (15:10)

Despising self (15:32)

Poverty and disgrace (13:18)

On the other hand, possessing the humility to be corrected is rich with promises.

Proverbs 13:18

*Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.*

The questions for us are: Are we able to be reproved? Have we surrounded ourselves with people who know the wisdom of God, and have we given them permission to show us when we are wrong? Are we saturating our lives with God's wisdom so that we can know when it is correcting us and rebuking us? When we hear those dreaded words, are we willing to adapt our will and life to God's ways?

It seems as though it may be a valuable time to stop screaming "You are wrong!" at everyone else and start listening (12:1).

Prove me wrong.

Proverbs 15:5

*A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.*