

# So Loved Part 5

## A Father's Love

Jake Spencer February 21, 2016

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### So Loved — Review *(available online)*

- God Is Love
- God's Love for Us — lavish love
- Transferable Love — our love for one another
- Love in Marriage

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### A Father's Love — Love that Rebukes, Corrects, Chastens, and Scourges

- *full picture of love*, not condensed, can't pick and choose
- God, the very essence of love, defines love for us
- issues in culture perceiving God to be angry and judgmental when He's not
  - result of the church's failure to accurately understand and represent love of God
- church terrified or embarrassed to speak Truth; gloss over hard things and call it love
- when we misrepresent the Love of God, we do a great disservice to ourselves, the church, and this generation!

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### Correction is Love

- **Hebrews 12:5-8**

You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
- Our response to correction all too often is:
  - to despise it: having no regard for it, caring little, considering it of small worth
  - discouraged by it; this can lead all the way to feeling... ***rejected by it!***

#### **Correction is not Rejection!**

***Our response to correction should be to feel: Loved, Received, and Accepted as His Son or Daughter.***

The above passage from the book of Hebrews is quoting from Proverbs.

- **Proverbs 3:11-12**

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

**God delights in us!** Correction from God has an important place in our love relationship with Him. He delights in us as His children which means: He cares enough to accept us as we are, and He loves us enough to help us be healed and grow!

**Correction is not Rejection! It is in fact Love!**

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## **Correction is Love: Three reasons we need correction from God**

### **I. Correction is NECESSARY**

- **Hebrews 12:9**

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

***If there was a need to listen to the correction of our earthly fathers, how much more do we need the Heavenly Father's correction? In fact it's essential to Life!***

***What is the alternative to life...? The words of Jesus to His church...***

- **Revelation 3:17-19**

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

***This is to people who are in the family of God! He is talking about essential and necessary needs for life, and their total lack of awareness that it's missing!***

*There is a possibility that there is a place in your life that you are either blind to or ignoring. Somewhere that you have convinced yourself that you have it all together and life is good.*

**Jesus says – I love you enough to tell you this —  
and to offer you change!**

### **II. Correction is BENEFICIAL**

- **Hebrews 12:10**

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

- **Acts 19:17-20**

This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

**Hebrews 12 says that for our profit we are corrected.** It's the same Greek word translated here in Acts 19 for "brought together," when they gathered their books and burned them.

**What's the picture?**

**Receiving correction from the Lord is like an exchange** – I will at times be asked to bring something I have held very dear to Him, something I consider of great benefit or profit to me, and I'll have an opportunity to gather it all up and exchange it for something He has gathered up and prepared for me that's of much more benefit that I can even imagine – but first it will cost me.

**This requires faith and trust in Him** that what He offers is not only Necessary and Beneficial, but also Valuable . . . far more valuable than what I'm losing.

## II. Correction is VALUABLE

- **Hebrews 12:11**

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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## Partakers of Correction become Partakers of Holiness

- **Hebrews 12:8-10**

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

**Review story from 2 Samuel 12:** David's adultery with Bathsheba; murder of Uriah; birth of son; Nathan's prophecy

**The Lord's correction:**

**Rebuke** – vs. 7 "You are the man!"

**Chastening** – vs. 10-14 "In David's family: sword, adultery, & the death of the child"

**Forgiveness** - vs. 13 "The Lord has put away your sin and you will not die"

**David's response:**

**Repentance** – vs. 13 "I have sinned against the Lord"

**Fasting & Prayer** – vs. 16 "David prays and fasts for the Lord to relent"

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**The Lord doesn't relent, the punishment falls; and then David does the most fascinating thing:**

- **2 Samuel 12:19-20**

When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

*If you read the entire passage, no one understands this. They are baffled by David and his response! They don't get it. David even in the midst of his most heinous sin, and the reality of the punishment and consequences that will still follow . . . He repents and worships! And God calls that holiness!*

*How do we know that? Because God says, when you look at David you see a man after my own heart!*

**Read Psalm 51 — David's Direct Response**

**Revelation 3:19**

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. Can you recall a time when you know that you have been rebuked, chastened, or corrected by God?
  2. What was your initial *reaction*? Indignant? Puzzled? Convicted? Repentant?
  3. What was your resultant *action*?
  4. How can you explain God's chastening and rebuking actions *as love* to a non-believer?
  5. Does knowing how God uses chastening love *with us*, help us to learn the right way to use correcting love *with our children*?
  6. Read Psalm 51. Which verses speak to you most strongly?
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