

November 13, 2011

Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Prov. 3:11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD.

Stubborn? There is a stubborn streak in all of us that often rises when we are corrected. Although, we recognize the streak in children, we do not readily recognize its tendency in our own lives. Often the streak actually grows stronger as we grow older. Consider that, like drivers off course, correction is your only hope to arrive at your longed for destination. Learning to accept correction in whatever form it comes is essential to a Christ centered life and a Christ centered life is the only means for genuine abundance. What is your response to correction?

Tuesday

Prov. 3:11 My son...

Surely there are no better words ever spoken than, "My son." Inclusion. Adoption. Love. Inheritance. These words include you as part of God's family of grace. In Christ, He has elevated you to a position as a son or daughter of the King. In Jesus, you have become an heir to the riches of heaven, of abundant life, of salvation. All of the keys of life are yours in Him. Therefore understand that nothing the Lord plans for you or asks of you is anything but beneficial for you. Promise or instruction, discipline or edification, God's work in your life is full of grace and love.

Wednesday

Prov. 3:11-12 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD
Or loathe His reproof..."

"That's just the way I am," is a sorry excuse used by those who know they need to change but refuse to do so. The Lord's reproof may surely come through a trusted friend, a wounded spouse, a sermon or a devotion. The wise man or woman will not loathe such reproof but see it as word from Jesus fitly chosen to bring grace and needed correction. God did not save us to leave us stuck in unproductive habits and destructive patterns of relationships. He gave us His word and His Spirit to empower our growth and sanctification. Don't settle for "that's just the way I am," until you are just the way He wants you to be.

Thursday

Prov. 3:12 For whom the LORD loves...

Love is not merely a word nor is it essentially a feeling. It is an act taken for the benefit and profit of another. So discipline and reproof administered by a caring parent is an act of caring, a tangible expression of love. Likewise, the absence of discipline is an act of indifference at best and rejection at worst. Therefore, if you love your children discipline them with a loving hand, not out of anger, but out of love. Likewise, as a child of God accept the discipline of the Lord as a statement of His love, a tangible reminder of His loving watch is proof of your inclusion in His family.

Friday

Prov. 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproofs, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

When I was small, my aunt might take me aside and discipline me. As a student sometimes my teachers would correct me. Even my neighbors loved me enough to speak a word of gracious rebuke to me if they recognized I was crossing a boundary of good behavior or veering away from the correct path. Everyone of these worked as an agent of and for my mother and dad! So too your Sunday School teacher, your pastor, your devotional reading, even your spouse, or parent is working as an agent of your Heavenly Father to bring discipline to your life. Do not despise it. Learn to embrace it and grow in the grace of the Lord.