

- Two weeks ago considered
- I. **WHAT AM I GOING TO SPEAK?**
 - A. Truth
 - B. Not Lies
- II. **WHY AM I GOING TO SPEAK?**
 - A. "Positive"
 1. Godly Encouragement/Compliment
 2. Flattery

B. "Negative"

- Last week we considered the "positive", by encouragement and compliment. What we saw then is the necessary context for this week's instruction. There is an atmosphere of love in which comes godly correction. If it is the other way around (in the family or the church) there will be trouble and an oppressive atmosphere.
- Speaking in a godly way does not mean always only speaking "positively", without correction or instruction. What we will see is that even the "negative" has the goal of being "positive", moving one another towards godliness.

1. Receiving Correction

- The importance of having a receptive heart – we can easily be defensive, justifying, seeking to blameshift or return accusation to the person. We need to learn to be receptive and listen, if perhaps there is even a seed of truth in what is said. Even if it isn't true, the fact that the person perceives it means that we have an opportunity to explain and correct perspective.
- The comes down to our being teachable –
- Proverbs 5:12 *How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction!*
- Proverbs 6:23 *reproofs of instruction are they way of life*
- Proverbs 10:17 *He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.*
- Proverbs 15:31 *The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise.*
- Proverbs 17:10 *it is effective for a wise man, more than violence to a fool*
- Proverbs 25:12 *the mark of an obedient ear*
- Proverbs 27:5-6 *likened to the wounds of a friend.* This doesn't make it easy.
- This is to be the mark of every disciple of Christ, regardless of age and position
- There is a higher priority than our reputation and pride, to be conformed into the likeness of Christ

2. Giving Correction

a) Godly

- Definition: *A bold and humble confrontation of a person in response to a perceived sin or error with a desire to see the it corrected for the glory of God and the good of others.*
- We all are called, to some degree or another, according to our vocation and calling, to bring godly rebuke. This includes parents to children, husbands to wife (in love) wife to husbands (in submission), employers to employees, Christians to Christians (especially where relationship has developed) and pastors to the sheep.
- Bold = courageous, not fearing the faces of men, but a greater desire for God's glory and their ultimate good. Humble = with recognition of own sinfulness, the possibility of being wrong, with gentleness.
- Galatians 6:1 *A spirit of gentleness, even when in clear sin.*

b) Sinful

- Definition: *a proud or harsh confrontation of perceived sin or error, with the desire to hurt, control, or humiliate the hearer, or for selfish motives.*
- This may be "one up"-ism; may be out of hatefulness, bitterness, revenge, or arrogance; can often be disguised; sometimes just to be contentious. this does not take into account one's own sin, and God's mercy toward the person
- Proverbs 15:18 *wrath stirs up strife*
- Proverbs 11:9 *hypocrite (Heb. Godless, profane, irreligious) destroys his neighbor*
- Proverbs 15:4 *perverse tongue breaks the spirit*
- Proverbs 17:9 *not having love that can cover, but repetition that separates even best friends*

- More than anything, two things are needed; a spirit of Love (1Corinthians 13) and of Wisdom (James 3:17)
- When there is a lack of love and wisdom, our words can become critical, nit-picky, destructive
- With disciples like this in a church, there will be a kind of "thick-skin" developed that wont' be constantly offended, and a "soft-tongue" tempered by love and good will.
- The is extremely important within a marriage and in raising our children.
- I plan to come back next week and consider the "When" of our speaking