

Sermon Title: Chiseling through Rebuke

Last week Pastor Dan did a great job with the help of the skit guys talking about God's hammer and chisel.

God has set up another way for Him to chisel us, and it is **through a process called rebuking.**

I can tell you that some key conversations in my life have really shaped who I am today.

So if you want to fool proof your life this morning, and God often speaks to you through other people, **we are going to talk about rebuke and how God can use that to shape your life.**

What is Rebuke?

Paul tells Timothy at the end of his second letter to his pupil to "correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Tim. 4:2)

Correct - to point out when something is wrong; **think red pen on a test.**

Rebuke - **Matthew 8:26 - He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. Matthew 17:18 - Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Luke 4:39 He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her.**

When Jesus rebuked someone or something, he demanded, on God's authority, that it cease and desist.

Encourage – reminding someone that they are not stopping this sin on their own, **but only with the help of the power of the Holy Spirit.**

How do we accept rebuke well?

Proverbs 15:31-33 - ³¹He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. ³²He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. ³³The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

God tells us that rebuke is a good thing!

Proverbs 25:12 - "Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear."

Pride is the problem, when someone tells us that we are doing something wrong it is what tells us to get defensive, to justify our actions, and to attack the person that is rebuking us.

Scripture tells us that the only cure for pride is humility.

Practical examples of accepting rebuke well –

1) Listen, don't get defensive (make sure it is a Biblical rebuke)

2) Ask clarifying questions (it gives you a moment to calm down, and makes sure the other person is clear)

3) React with Grace (God has given us grace)

Things to remember – You are not perfect, check your pride with humility; and remember how hard it must be for the other person to be rebuking you at that very moment.

The other side of this coin, how do we lovingly rebuke someone else?

Make sure you ask yourself this question – **Should I rebuke this person?**

Before you approach someone ask yourself:

Do I have a relationship with this person?

Have they invited me to be a part of their life in this way?

Is this the best time and place to have this conversation?

Look to Scripture for how to lovingly rebuke someone-

Approach someone only like the Bible tells us to in Matthew 18:15-20 (look that up this week)

Proverbs 28:23 - He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

Proverbs 9:7-8 - Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

Ephesians 4:14-15 - Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

That's the goal, growing up, maturing spiritually and gaining in wisdom

The only way to mature is to let God's word chisel away the old you and make you more like Christ. **1 Corinthians 13:11 - When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.**

Challenges: All start with "RE"

- 1) **Resist** the temptation to hear this sermon and then justify you telling everyone what to do all week.
- 2) Practice how you will react this week if someone rebukes you.
- 3) Treat everyone with respect.

Despite what our society suggests at every turn, to point out sin in one another, and call for change, is not necessarily hate speech, but it may be a courageous act of genuine love.

When we were children we thought that when our parents disciplined us it was because they were mean and didn't love us. But let's put away our childish ways and trust that when God disciplines us with his hammer and chisel, **it is only because he loves us.**

11-11-18 Sermon Title: Chiseling through Rebuke

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