

Importance of Humility | Power Of Humility

Correcting Believers in Scripture

According to Scripture, when correcting a fellow believer who unintentionally gives error in Scripture, Christians should follow these principles:

- **Verify the error:** Ensure that the error is indeed present in Scripture and not a misunderstanding or misinterpretation (2 Timothy 2:15).
- **Motivated by love:** Approach the correction with a heart of love and concern for the brother or sister's spiritual well-being, not out of self-righteousness or a desire to prove oneself (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
- **Focus on the truth:** Correct the error by pointing to the relevant Scripture, rather than relying on personal opinions or traditions (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- **Pray before correcting:** Seek God's guidance and wisdom in prayer before addressing the issue, asking for His help in correcting the brother or sister (James 1:5).
- **Do it privately:** Initially, correct the error in a private setting, one-on-one, rather than publicly (Matthew 18:15).
- **Be gentle and respectful:** Use a gentle and respectful tone, avoiding condescension or harshness (Proverbs 15:23).
- **Seek restoration:** The goal of correction is restoration, not condemnation. Be willing to listen to the brother or sister's perspective and work together towards

understanding and agreement (Galatians 6:1-2).

- **Be prepared to receive correction yourself:** Recognize that you, too, can be mistaken and be open to receiving correction from others (Proverbs 9:8-9).

Additional Considerations

- **Avoid criticizing behavior:** Focus on the error in doctrine or practice, rather than attacking the person's behavior or character (Matthew 7:1-5).
- **Be aware of your own limitations:** Recognize your own limitations and biases, and be willing to seek guidance from others or further study (Proverbs 11:2).
- **Pray for the brother or sister:** Continue to pray for the individual after correcting them, seeking God's blessing and guidance in their life (Colossians 1:9-11).

By following these biblical guidelines, Christians can approach correction with integrity, love, and humility, seeking to edify and restore their fellow believers rather than condemn or dominate them.

Guiding Biblical Corrective Tone

The following biblical passages guide a Christian's tone and demeanor when correcting another believer:

1. **Galatians 6:1-2:** "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."
 - This passage emphasizes the importance of gentle restoration and self-awareness when correcting a

fellow believer.

2. **Matthew 7:5:** [This passage is not explicitly about correcting a believer, but about judging others. However, its principle can be applied to correcting a fellow Christian: “You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”]
 - This passage encourages Christians to examine their own hearts and lives before correcting others, promoting humility and sincerity in their approach.

3. **Matthew 18:15-17:** [This passage describes the process of correcting a fellow believer, including private confrontation and involvement of church leaders if necessary.]
 - This passage provides a framework for correcting a believer, emphasizing the importance of approaching the issue privately and with a spirit of restoration.

4. **Hebrews 3:12-13:** “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”
 - This passage encourages believers to encourage and correct one another daily, with a focus on restoration and spiritual growth.

5. **James 5:19-20:** “My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander off from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember that whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from

death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

- This passage highlights the importance of correcting a fellow believer and bringing them back to the truth, with the goal of restoration and salvation.

These passages emphasize the importance of:

- Gentleness and humility (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Self-examination and sincerity (Matthew 7:5)
- Private confrontation and restoration (Matthew 18:15-17)
- Daily encouragement and correction (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- Restoration and salvation (James 5:19-20)

When correcting another believer, Christians should strive to embody these principles, approaching the situation with love, humility, and a desire to restore their brother or sister in Christ.

Correcting Christians with Truthfulness

The concept of “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) guides the process of correcting a fellow Christian by emphasizing the importance of both accuracy and compassion. Here are key insights:

- **Doctrinal Correctness:** When correcting, it’s essential to speak truthfully about biblical doctrine and principles. This ensures that the correction is grounded in Scripture and not based on personal opinions or biases.
- **Biblically Committed Life:** The correction should come

from a life committed to following Christ, demonstrating a consistent application of biblical principles. This authenticity lends credibility to the correction and helps the recipient receive it with humility.

- **Gentleness and Kindness:** The phrase “in love” emphasizes the need for gentleness and kindness in the correction process. This doesn’t mean avoiding difficult truths but rather presenting them in a way that is sensitive to the recipient’s feelings and spiritual state.
- **Motivated by Love:** The ultimate goal of correction is to build up the fellow Christian, not to tear them down. The motivation behind the correction should be a desire to see the person grow in Christlikeness, rather than a desire to prove a point or assert dominance.
- **Contextual Considerations:** The correction should take into account the recipient’s spiritual maturity, emotional state, and current circumstances. This helps ensure that the correction is received and processed effectively, rather than being rejected or hardened against.
- **Love-Driven Humility:** Those correcting should approach the process with humility, recognizing their own limitations and potential biases. This humility fosters a willingness to listen, learn, and adapt, rather than becoming entrenched in one’s own perspective.

By incorporating these elements, Christians can engage in a process of correction that is both truthful and loving, ultimately reflecting Christ’s character and promoting spiritual growth and maturity.

Prayer and Fasting for

Correction

Humility and Brokenness: Prayer and fasting, as a means of humbling oneself before God (1 Peter 5:5), prepare a Christian to correct a fellow believer by cultivating a spirit of humility and brokenness. This posture acknowledges one's own limitations and sinfulness, making it easier to approach the situation with gentleness and compassion.

Seeking God's Guidance: Fasting and prayer (Acts 13:2; 14:23) enable Christians to seek God's guidance in correcting a fellow believer. By denying themselves physical sustenance, they focus their attention on spiritual nourishment and seek God's wisdom and direction. This discipline helps them:

- **Listen to God's voice:** Rather than relying solely on human wisdom or emotions, Christians can tune in to God's gentle leading and discern His will for the situation.
- **Understand the heart:** Fasting and prayer can grant insight into the heart of the fellow believer, enabling correction to be given with empathy and understanding rather than judgment.
- **Receive wisdom and discernment:** God's guidance can provide the necessary wisdom and discernment to approach the situation with tact and love, avoiding unnecessary conflict or harm.

Detaching from the World: Fasting helps detach Christians from the world's influence, allowing them to re-attach to God and His ways (Matthew 6:16-18). This detachment enables them to:

- **Prioritize spiritual concerns:** Correcting a fellow believer becomes a spiritual matter, rather than a worldly or emotional one.
- **Seek God's perspective:** Christians can view the

situation from God's perspective, rather than being swayed by personal opinions or biases.

Preparing for Spiritual Breakthrough: Fasting and prayer can lead to spiritual breakthroughs, as described in Hebrews 5:7, where Jesus, in His humanity, was strengthened through prayer and fasting before facing His crucifixion. Similarly, Christians can experience spiritual breakthroughs as they seek God's guidance in correcting a fellow believer, leading to:

- **Increased faith and trust:** Fasting and prayer can deepen a Christian's faith and trust in God, enabling them to approach the situation with confidence and reliance on His guidance.
- **Spiritual clarity:** The Holy Spirit can provide clarity and direction, helping Christians navigate the situation with wisdom and discernment.

In summary, prayer and fasting prepare Christians to correct a fellow believer by fostering humility, seeking God's guidance, detaching from the world, and preparing for spiritual breakthroughs. This spiritual discipline enables Christians to approach the situation with a heart attuned to God's will, rather than their own desires or emotions.

Humility in Correction Illustrated

In Galatians 2:11-14, Paul recounts an instance where he was corrected by Peter and Barnabas. This episode highlights the crucial role humility plays in the correction process. Here are key takeaways:

- **Recognition of limitations:** Paul, a seasoned apostle,

acknowledged his own fallibility and the possibility of error (Galatians 2:11). This humility allowed him to receive correction from others, demonstrating a willingness to learn and adapt.

- **Openness to feedback:** Paul's humility enabled him to listen to Peter and Barnabas, even when their correction challenged his own actions (Galatians 2:12). He did not become defensive or dismissive, but rather, he engaged in a constructive dialogue.
- **Submission to authority:** Paul recognized the authority of Peter and Barnabas, as well as the collective wisdom of the Jerusalem church (Galatians 2:9). He submitted to their correction, demonstrating a willingness to be guided by others and to prioritize the unity of the church over personal pride.
- **Growth through correction:** Paul's humility in receiving correction led to growth and refinement in his ministry. He adjusted his approach, ensuring that his actions aligned with the apostolic consensus (Galatians 2:10). This experience likely contributed to his later emphasis on the importance of gentleness and humility in correcting others (2 Corinthians 10:1, Galatians 6:1).

In summary, Paul's humility in the correction process:

1. Allowed him to recognize and acknowledge his limitations.
2. Enabled him to receive feedback and engage in constructive dialogue.
3. Demonstrated his submission to authority and the collective wisdom of the church.
4. Facilitated his growth and refinement as a minister.

As believers, we can learn from Paul's example and cultivate humility in our own correction processes. By acknowledging our limitations, being open to feedback, submitting to authority,

and seeking growth, we can model Paul's humility and foster a culture of gentleness, love, and unity in our relationships with others.