Healing Wounds

The Way of the Wise Reprover
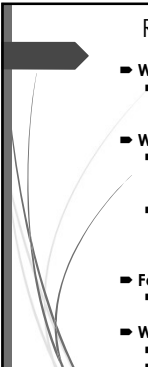
1

Rebuking in Love with Wisdom

- **What is Reproof/Rebuke?**
  - Hb. *yakah* | lit. "to make an argument" (trans. decide, judge, reprove, rebuke, correct)

- **Why Rebuke?**
  - It shows a kind of loving wisdom that both glorifies and reflects God's nature.
    - Prov. 1:20-23; 3:11-12
  - It guards our hearts and lives from foolishness and accelerates our growth in wisdom and holiness.
    - Ps. 141:3-5; Prov. 10:17; 15:31-32; 25:12

- **Fair Warning**
  - Prov. 9:8-9; 12:1

- **Why We Don't Rebuke**
  - Cowardice—fear of man and fear of consequences
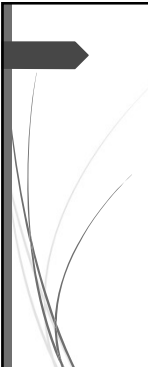 - Inordinate love of relational ease and peace

2

To Rebuke or Not?

- Is this something that is a clear, black and white issue of sin in Scripture?

- Is this something that is clearly unwise or irresponsible that could have significant negative consequences?

- Are there mitigating circumstances that make the sin out of character?

- Would I be rebuking out of a loving desire to see growth and sanctification or to dole out relational justice?

3

Rebuking in Wisdom—Avoiding Grace without Truth

- Have I prayed for wisdom and acknowledged my need for God to help me as I seek to rebuke in love?
  - The folly of rebuking while running hot
- Am I committed to making an incision no larger than necessary?
  - The folly of truth without grace (Prov. 12:18)
- Am I content to address one area of concern even if I am aware of multiple?
  - The folly of batch-rebuking
- Am I humbly prepared to offer observations and ask questions when necessary instead of leading with the blade?
  - The folly of perceptual infallibility

4

Asking Ourselves Difficult Questions

- In sober self-assessment, do you believe yourself to be a wise reprover? Would those in your family or those who know you best agree?
- Do you tend to under-rebuke or over-rebuke? Why?
- Do you genuinely believe that the kingdom of God and the glory of God are magnified by wise rebuke?
- Do I love others enough to give appropriate rebuke despite awkwardness, tears, hurt feelings and relational friction?

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