I. The Necessity of Making Corrections

1. Wisdom is crying in the streets (Pr. 1:20-33; cf. Pr. 8:1-36).
   a. This is a loud cry to all who will hear (Pr. 1:20-22).
   b. Wisdom is crying out for correction via God's Word (Pr. 1:23).
   c. Sadly, there are those who refuse correction (Pr. 1:24-25).
   d. Negative consequences are attached with refusing correction (Pr. 1:26-32).
   e. There is blessing for heeding the cry of wisdom (Pr. 1:33).
2. Open rebuke is better than secret love (Pr. 27:5-6).
   a. Humility is needed with correction (Pr. 3:34 with Jm. 4:6; Jm. 4:10; 1 Pt. 5:6).
3. Without making correction there comes only destruction (Pr. 29:1).
   a. God's own people had this problem (Jer. 32:30-35; cf. Jer. 2:30, 5:3, 7:28, 17:21-23, 32:30-33; Zep. 3:2, 7).
   b. It was no different in the time of the early church (Ac. 7:51-60).
   c. A child left to himself brings shame and destruction (Pr. 29:15, 23:12-14).

II. Understanding the Urgency of Making Corrections

1. We must be reminded that God is not a man (Ps. 50:16-23).
   a. If we are wicked, He will correct (Ps. 50:21).
   b. If we choose not to be corrected then a terrible consequence awaits (Ps. 50:22).
2. Without making needed corrections we are on the pathway to hell.
   a. There are only two ways we can be on and only one at a time (Mt. 7:13-14).
   b. Wisdom is seeing the end at the beginning (Pr. 5:3-14).
3. Poverty and shame comes to those who refuse correction (Pr. 13:18).
   a. instruction (*musar* H4148 noun) "…is discipline, but more. As 'discipline' it teaches how to live correctly in the fear of the Lord, so that the wise man learns his lesson before temptation and testing" (Vine vol. 1 p. 123).
   b. Death also comes to those who hate correction (Pr. 15:10).

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4. Reproofs of instruction are the way of life (Pr. 6:23).
   a. Notice the context of this verse (Pr. 6:24-35).
   b. We must hold onto instruction (Pr. 4:13).
   c. We want to be in the way of life (Pr. 10:17, 16:22).
   d. We must listen to God and not our hearts (Pr. 19:20-21).

III. No One is Above Correction

1. Not entire cities (Mt. 11:20-24).
2. Not nationalities (Lk. 13:34-35; Jn. 2:13-21).
   a. Including specific parties (Mt. 22:23-32, 23:1ff).
3. Not political leaders (Mk. 6:17-18; Lk. 13:31-33).
4. Not congregations of the Lord's church (Rev. 2:4-5, 14-16, 20-23, 3:1-3, 15-19).
5. Not apostles (Mt. 16:21-23; Gal. 2:11ff).
6. Not elders (1 Tim. 5:19-20).
   a. Paul warned the elders of Ephesus that some of them would fall away (Ac. 20:17-31).
   b. Timothy worked in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:2-3).
7. Not preachers (Ac. 18:24-28).
   a. This includes false teachers and divisive people (Rm. 16:17-18; Tt. 3:10-11; 3 Jn. 9-10).
8. Not brethren (Mt. 18:15-20; Lk. 17:3-4; 2 Th. 3:14-15).
   a. An example of church discipline carried out (1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 2:1-11).
9. Not individuals (Lk. 10:38-42)