

# Proverbs 15:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

## Analysis

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He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. Pore'a musar mo'es nafsho (פּוֹרֵעַ מוֹסֵר מוֹאֵס נַפְשׁוֹ, one refusing discipline despises his soul). Rejecting instruction is self-hatred. Veshome'a tokhachat qoneh-lev (וְשׁוֹמֵעַ תּוֹכַחַת קוֹנֶה לֵב, but one hearing reproof acquires heart/understanding). Qanah lev (literally "acquires heart") means gets understanding, gains wisdom. Accepting correction is self-love through growth. The proverb challenges us to prove love for ourselves through humility toward reproof.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wisdom traditions emphasized teachability. The wise sought correction; fools rejected it. Proverbs repeatedly contrasts these responses (10:17, 12:1, 13:18, 15:5). Biblical examples include David receiving Nathan's rebuke (2 Samuel 12) versus Rehoboam rejecting elders' counsel (1 Kings 12). Christians should welcome biblical correction as God's loving discipline (Hebrews 12:5-11).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. Do you receive correction as loving yourself (gaining wisdom) or refuse it as despising yourself (remaining foolish)?
2. Who in your life provides godly reproof, and are you listening to them?
3. How can you cultivate a heart that craves rather than resents correction?

### Interlinear Text

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|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| פֹּוֹרֵעַ        | מִן וְסֵר   | מֹאִיִּס      | נַפְשׁוֹ     | וְשׁוֹמֵר           |
| He that refuseth | instruction | despiseth     | his own soul | but he that heareth |
| H6544            | H4148       | H3988         | H5315        | H8085               |
| תִּכְחַת         | קֹוֶה       | לֵב:          |              |                     |
| reproof          | getteth     | understanding |              |                     |
| H8433            | H7069       | H3820         |              |                     |

### Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Proverbs 1:7** (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Isaiah 1:5** (Parallel theme): Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

**Proverbs 18:15** (Parallel theme): The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.