

# Proverbs 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

## Analysis

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A fool despises his father's instruction, but he that regards reproof is prudent. Fools reject paternal teaching; wise persons heed correction. The verb 'despise' (na'ats) suggests contempt, active rejection. In contrast, regarding reproof demonstrates prudence (aram - shrewdness, sensibility). This verse makes receptivity to correction the defining difference between wisdom and folly. Pride rejects instruction; humility receives it.

## Historical Context

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Reflects patriarchal family structure where fathers bore primary responsibility for sons' education. Rejecting such instruction wasn't merely foolish but dishonored parents and violated covenant community.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond to correction from authority figures - with contempt or prudence?
2. What makes you resistant to reproof that you need to embrace?

## Interlinear Text

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אִל	! נֶאֱצַץ	מוֹסֵר	אָב יוֹ	וְשֵׁמֶר	תּוֹכַחַת
A fool	despiseth	instruction	his father's	but he that regardeth	reproof
H191	H5006	H4148	H1	H8104	H8433

יֶעֱרָם:  
is prudent  
H6191

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 13:18** (Parallel theme): Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

**Proverbs 13:1** (Parallel theme): A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

**Proverbs 19:20** (Parallel theme): Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

**1 Chronicles 28:9** (Parallel theme): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

**1 Chronicles 28:20** (Parallel theme): And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

**Titus 2:15** (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

**Titus 1:13** (Parallel theme): This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

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