

Proverbs 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Analysis

Removing the 'scorner' (mocker of wisdom) from the community eliminates a source of 'contention' (strife, conflict). His departure brings peace: 'yea, strife and reproach shall cease.' The scorner doesn't merely hold wrong opinions but actively sows discord and mocks righteousness. Such people poison communities through cynicism, criticism, and contempt. Sometimes peace requires exclusion of those who persistently generate conflict. Church discipline and social boundaries serve this function—protecting communities from toxic influence. This isn't hatred but necessary protection. The body's health requires removing infections. While we pursue peace, we cannot sacrifice truth or community health to achieve pseudo-unity with unrepentant scorners.

Historical Context

Israelite communities could excommunicate persistent troublemakers. Paul commanded expelling the immoral man from Corinth (1 Corinthians 5) to protect the congregation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Are you enabling a scouter's destructive influence by refusing appropriate boundaries?
2. How can the church balance pursuing peace with maintaining necessary discipline?

Interlinear Text

רֹשֶׁת־בָּזֶבֶת־יְמִינָה־מִדְבָּר־תְּשִׁיבָה־תְּנִזְבָּה־
Cast out the scouter shall go out and contention shall cease yea strife

H1644 H3887 H3318 H4066 H7673 H1779

:||לְזִבְחָה!
and reproach

H7036

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:24 (Parallel theme): Proud and haughty scouter is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

1 Corinthians 5:13 (Parallel theme): But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Psalms 101:5 (Parallel theme): Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Nehemiah 13:28 (Parallel theme): And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.