

Proverbs 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

Analysis

Whoever corrects a mocker gets shame; whoever rebukes wicked gets insult. The Hebrew 'yasar' (correct/discipline) and 'yakach' (rebuke/reprove) describe instructive confrontation. But mockers and wicked don't receive correction gratefully - they return shame and insult. This verse warns: some people aren't ready for wisdom. Attempting to instruct those committed to folly brings harm to instructor without benefit to fool.

Historical Context

Jesus taught: 'Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you' (Matthew 7:6). Some people's hardness makes them unable to receive truth. Proverbs 26:4 warns: 'Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.' Wisdom includes discerning when correction is productive versus counterproductive.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can you discern when correction will help versus when it will provoke hostile response?
2. Have you experienced receiving 'shame' or 'insult' for attempting to correct someone unwilling to receive it?
3. What wisdom is needed for knowing when to speak truth and when to remain silent?

Interlinear Text

יִסְרוּ	לִיץ	לִיקֶה	לִו	קָלֵוֹן	וּמוֹכֵי
He that reproveth	a scorner	getteth	H0	to himself shame	and he that rebuketh
H3256	H3887	H3947		H7036	H3198
לְרָשָׁע	מוֹמָא:				
a wicked	man getteth himself a blot				
H7563	H3971				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:12 (Parallel theme): A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

Proverbs 23:9 (Parallel theme): Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

2 Chronicles 36:16 (Parallel theme): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.