

THE BIG IDEA: Man uses correction to shame us. God uses correction to frame us.

The Take-Off

This morning we're continuing in our series called "We are Family," so let me catch all of us up in case any of us have missed some of the previous weeks.

What we've learned that family means...

...we're accepted and being accepted gives us a place.

...we're connected and being connected gives us power.

...we're expected and being expected gives us purpose.

Honestly, it would kind of be great to end it right there, wouldn't it? Knowing that God expects greatness from His kids would allow us to end the series on the upswing!

But we all know that as true as it is that God's expectations give us purpose, they also present another troubling reality: the very real possibility of failing to meet them.

What happens when family members don't meet the clearly stated expectations?

Before we can even get to what happens in God's family, we probably need to deal with what may have happened in our own families, because for a lot of us, *failing to meet expectations got us the finger!*

Not the "thanks for cutting me off in traffic" finger, but the "you ought to be ashamed of yourself" finger.

Kids don't like it (picture 1). Employees don't like it (picture 2). Shoot, even dogs don't like it (picture 3).

The truth is that none of us react well to it, and if we aren't careful, we may find ourselves allowing this to be the picture of God that pops up in our heads throughout the message (picture 4), because this morning we're going to see from Scripture that being family means we're corrected.

And being corrected gives us... most of us would like to say pain, wouldn't we? But that's not it at all.

Being corrected actually gives us perspective, and when we understand that, correction takes on a whole new meaning.

1. Correcting our incorrect view of correction

- a. So, the very first thing we've got to do is correct our incorrect view of correction!
- b. Let's look at some Scripture and make some observations:
 - Correction assumes a right and a wrong and requires that someone makes that call
 - Luke 18:19 - Jesus (who was perfect) said there is only One good - God
 - James 4:12 - there's only one judge
 - God can judge right and wrong, but we can really only judge wrong and more or less wrong
 - It doesn't mean we can't judge, but it does mean we need to be humble and aware of God as we do
 - Hebrews 12:5-6 - correction comes from a loving Father
 - Proverbs 29:15 - correction doesn't happen on our own
 - Proverbs 12:1 - yes, the Bible said stupid
 - Matthew 16:23 - Jesus corrected Peter by calling him Satan!
- c. So, while it's easy to see correction based on what we've experienced, we need to see it through the lens of the Bible.
- d. While correction may not be easy, it's critical if we're going to change.
- e. So, how are we corrected and why are we corrected?

2. We're corrected by the Word of God

- a. Since we've already established that it's not enough for us to correct each other based on our own (often misleading) preferences, we need to know how God corrects His kids.
- b. Simple: through His word.
- c. Proverbs 6:23 - "For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life"
- d. Romans 15:4 - "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us..." - specifically Scripture
- e. Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
- f. 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

- g. Obviously, the power of the Bible to correct us is something most everyone agrees about.
- h. In fact, I would submit that this is the biggest reason why people stay out of churches - not because church isn't relevant, but because the Bible is too relevant and isn't handled correctly by the people preaching it!
- i. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to handle the word correctly, but most of us use it like a hatchet instead of a scalpel.

3. We're corrected for the work of God

- a. God's intent is to use His word like a surgeon, and to see why, we simply need to keep reading in 2 Timothy 3.
- b. 2 Timothy 3:17 - "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- c. The Word of God prepares us for the work of God!
- d. But enough talk! Let's see if a video can really seal in us the purpose of God's correction in our lives.
- e. [Video - God's chisel]

The Landing

God prepares us for the work that He's already prepared for us to do.

He knows what we need and what we don't, and He uses the correction from the Word to get us ready.

Man uses correction to shame us, but God uses correction to frame us, and when He's done, He holds us up to the world as His masterpiece so that we can fulfill our purpose of pointing them to the artist who can do the same thing with their lives.

Let's pray.