

Art of the Rebuke



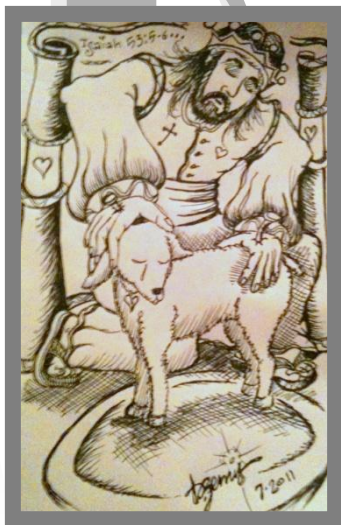
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Dr. Duane & Darilyn Bemis

The Art of the Rebuke

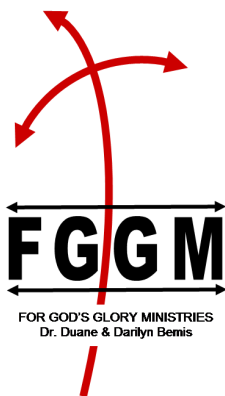


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Table Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Dedication | 5 |
| Introduction | 7 |
| 1. Peter tries to rebuke Jesus <i>“The Wrong Way to Rebuke”</i> | 9 |
| 2. The Sandwich Technique <i>“How to Rebuke”</i> | 17 |
| 3. Jesus rebukes Peter <i>“Receiving the Rebuke”</i> | 21 |
| 4. God rebukes Adam & Eve <i>“The Blame Game”</i> | 27 |
| 5. Paul rebukes Peter! <i>“Receive a Rebuke from Anyone”</i> | 33 |
| 6. Rules of Engagement <i>“The Rules of Rebuking”</i> | 39 |

Dedication

I dedicate this literary work to the One who has rebuked me the most my beloved Lord Jesus Christ whom I live to please. His love for me was demonstrated at the cross of Calvary in an act of violent love. His blood was shed to set this man free and to clean his heart from the destructive power of sin. Thank You Jesus!

Next I dedicate this project to my partner in ministry, my beloved Darilyn Valerie who upholds me in her daily prayer life. Thank you beloved!

Introduction

I find in the church today that we have lost the art of how to rebuke a fellow believer and we have lost the art on how to receive a rebuke in the church. Today if you rebuke a person they will get offended and run from the biblical truth. They might even go as far as running from the church to another church. I know of some who even try to run from God.

The rebuke is something that is God designed if used properly. So get ready to learn how to give and how to receive the rebuke of God.

A man wanted to do missions work in Mexico but his own house was in disarray. His own kitchen was not even usable but when I addressed him that ministry starts in our own houses he wanted nothing to do with Biblical truth. I even did this rebuke very gentle and he left the church totally offended. Four years later and he has just left his fourth church and second city.

Are you ready to come with me as we learn the “Art of the Rebuke.”

Dr. D. L. Bemis

“Satan get behind Me”***“The Wrong Rebuke”***

I hate being rebuked and I hate giving a rebuke. But there is a need today in our Churches to learn the “Art of the Rebuke.” So before we start let us come together through prayer seeking God’s heart in this matter of the Christian rebuke.

“Abba Father, our hearts cry out to You to teach us through the Holy Spirit Your scriptural truths in this matter of the rebuke. Open our hearts and our minds to gain Your wisdom in this matter. Lord there are many who rebuke and many who run from the rebuke helps us and guide us into Your Spiritual truths that are in Your word. Amen.”

So first of all we must learn what a rebuke is. The word rebuke means to reprimand a person because of the need for correction using strong words. I found that a rebuke is to use strong words to correct some ones actions or thought process.

Rebukes can also be said to admonish someone for perceived evil intentions. Rebukes are to give warning to someone or to reproof another. Parents might rebuke their children by scolding them with strong words. As Christians or disciples, who follow Jesus, what does the rebuking process all mean?

It means that if you are a child of God then God will rebuke you when needed. God will discipline every one of us who belong to Him. What does it say in Hebrews?

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without

chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:5-11)NKJV¹

No one likes the rebuke but if you consider yourself a child of God then your Heavenly Father will rebuke you. The rebuke is painful, the rebuke is unpleasant, and the rebuke is humiliating. But this is the purpose of the rebuke or the strong words in opposition to our wrong behavior.

If we try to avoid all rebuking then we are trying to be illegitimate children of God. But I have found that in our churches and in Christianity we

have gotten away from rebuking. Or I should say it this way; we need to learn the art of the rebuke in order to give and receive a rebuke correctly. We also need to learn the art of the rebuke so we can learn to receive a rebuke correctly.

Story Time: My granddaughter came in and told her mother, “I don’t want to listen or obey you.” Now, we all know what is going to happen next. The strong motherly works or rebuke of unacceptable behavior is naturally going to flow from her mother’s mouth because the mother loves her child. Well my daughter’s husband heard the words and he instantly came in and rebuked his daughter, “You will not talk to your mother that way do you hear me!” Then he took his daughter and placed her in time-out in her room.

So it shall be of our Heavenly Father. He will rebuke and discipline those He calls His own.

Let us go and see how Simon Peter handled the strongest of all rebukes. Turn with me to the Gospel of Mathew:

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (Matthew 16:13-14)

The first thing I want you to see from these scriptures is that Jesus is asking this question of the disciples, *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"* *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"*

- So do you consider yourself as a disciple of Jesus?
- Do you want to follow Him with all your heart?

If you want to follow Jesus then the same question needs to be asked today. The disciples told Jesus what people in their community thought about Him and we see that nothing has changed. Today people say Jesus was a good teacher, a prophet, or just a good man. Nothing has changed. But who do you say Jesus is?

One religious faith group says that Jesus was a prophet that did miracles. But that is all they will say or teach about Jesus. But what did Jesus teach and what does it say in the Word of God? So these followers attended my service to hear more about this one called Jesus. Another faith group says that Jesus and Satan are brothers. But again what did Jesus say and what does the Word of God say. So the next question for His disciples is a question for all disciples:

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

The only disciple willing to open his mouth at Jesus' question was Simon Peter. By this time Peter had watched many miracles, many blessings, and he even walked on water himself. So Peter had decided in his heart that Jesus was the Anointed

one of God. Peter made up his mind that this just might be the long awaited Messiah. Peter took a risk and spoke to Jesus declaring what was in his heart. Peter at this moment was thinking and acting in the Spirit. He was walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

I want you to use your holy imagination and place yourself in Peter's sandals. You have stood up when others just sit by thinking the same things but afraid of standing out in the crowd for what others might think of them. So fear of man might have kept others silent but Peter stood to his feet and raised his hand and declared, "You are the Christ!" At this moment you are thinking very highly of your Spiritual answer. Just because Peter declared who Christ was I don't think that he truly believed this in his heart. He did however have the right words.

I also like how Peter states that Jesus is the Son of the living God meaning God the Father and His Son are alive. Peter announces that God is still alive and moving and operating inside the human body of Jesus. Let us think about this for a moment. Peter saw Jesus raise people from the dead. So in

Peter's mind Jesus was the Christ or Messiah meaning the Anointed one of God. If I use my imagination and my own heart I would be thinking, that was a good answer and pride would be creeping into my heart. Let us now see how Jesus the Christ the Son of the Living God acts in response to Peter's words.

Jesus responds to Peter's answer and says:

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 16:17)

You can see in Jesus' answer to Peter is in the Spirit. You can see that Jesus knew Peter and Jesus knew Peter's family. When you see the word Bar-Jonah is simply means son of Jonah. So Peter could be related to Jonah and no wonder Peter is always in so much trouble. No wonder Peter has such a hard head. And if he really is a direct descendant of Jonah we can see the generational curses at hand in Peter's life. Jonah ran from God's presence and

Peter will run from Jesus! I think there is another whole sermon right here!

The real issue is using our imagination in how Peter responded to such a wonderful proclamation by the Son of the Living God. Peter must have felt so good and his flesh and his pride were going to his head. But Jesus was not done. He continued with His prophetic word over Peter's life. Listen again to the Word of God.

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:18-19)

I can see in my holy imagination how Peter was elbowing the closest disciple and thinking to himself, “Did you hear that? I get the keys and I am going to be the leader. Yippee!

Peter was crossing over to his flesh and his own self importance. At this moment I believe Peter was all about Peter. You might be thinking this is stretching the word of God. But as we continue reading in this portion of scripture it tells how Peter made such a grievous error when he turned and tried to rebuke the Lord.

But what Jesus says next troubled me for many years but I think I know what Jesus then told His disciples to be quiet about all this. Listen again:

*Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.
(Matthew 16:20)*

I believe Jesus told His disciples to be quiet because many followers of Christ all they do is talk and talk and talk. Jesus was tired of the religious chatter that people did and He wanted His disciples to live and truly walk as He walked.

Listen to what Jesus said in another Gospel:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and

greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)

I do not find many Christians today that believe that they should walk as Jesus walked but this is exactly what He said. All I ever see and hear is religious people talking the talk but not walking the walk.

As I stated earlier I believe this is why Jesus is still asking His disciples to be quiet and start believing and walking like you follow Christ the Anointed of God the Son of the living God.

Listen as we go back to our rebuke from Jesus to Peter.

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (Matthew 16:21-22)

Peter in his spiritual pride tries to rebuke the Anointed One. Now that is crazy yet we are still rebuking God all the time when we cannot figure out what God is doing. But listen to this, “God is never the problem.” Let me say it again and this time in Spanish, “Dios nunca es el problema.” The only thing that Peter did right in this rebuke is he took Jesus to the side. According to Jesus in Matthew 18 he tells us to meet with a person one-on-one when we are confronting someone. This is the correct starting point. But let us look at what Peter did not do.

When rebuking one should:

1. Take a step back and make sure you are not in the emotional stages of your flesh. Keep your heart humble!
2. Pray & Fast-remember we are not God and we might not handle the rebuke in a right manner. So pray and fast to make sure when you are giving a rebuke that is really from God. Remember that the Church is His Bride.

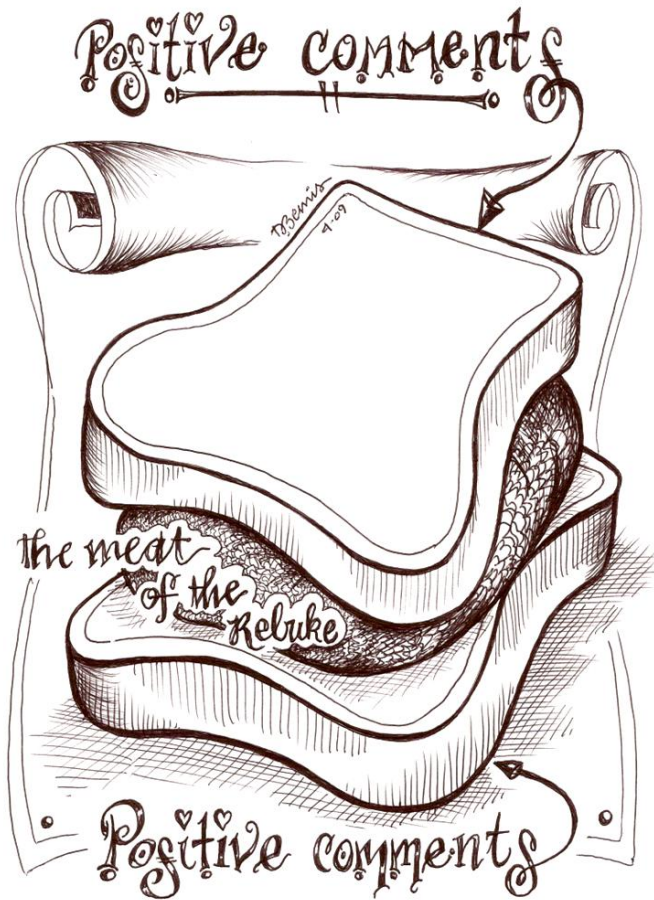
Each member of the Church belongs to Him.
Be careful how you handle His Bride.

3. Wait for a Scriptural plan from God
4. Use the “Sandwich Technique”, which means this (look at this illustration on the next chapter)

“Sandwich Technique”

Let me explain the last two points. When you feel that God wants you to rebuke someone then learn to use the “Sandwich Technique” which means; Start with positive comments and follow them with your scriptural plan for the meat of the rebuke and end the session with more positive comments.

Let me give you an example of this: We had a mom and daughter coming to church and both are adults. But during worship they would both speak in tongues very loud and even scare those around them. I did not like this but I took a step back (Step 1) and then I began to pray and fast (Step 2) seeking God for the right time and the right way to handle His bride. I have found that you also need to give the Holy Spirit time to soften the people’s hearts for the rebuke. I like to put it this way; give God time to cook the situation. I then waited for the Scriptural plan (Step 3) from God. The Lord told me to simply take them to 1 Corinthians 14 and walk them



through the chapter. The Lord showed me that these two just did not know scripture even though the mother has been a Christian for many years. So I waited upon the Lord and know He gave me His plan. I asked to speak with them a few **weeks** later and I did the “Sandwich Technique” (Step 4).

I started the meeting with prayer and explained that I could see that they loved the Lord their God with all their hearts, mind, and souls (Positive Comment). They both agreed. Did you see this was the positive comment that begins to soften their hearts to see that I am not against them that I am for them?

Next I brought them to the scriptural plan and we began our small Bible study. When we came to verse 23,

“Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?”
(1 Corinthians 14:23)

They both looked up and said to me, “I never knew these things before.” I then told them that the Lord told me, “*They just don’t know,*” and directed me to give them understanding. The meeting was a great Spiritual success because of the art of the rebuke. If you learn to wait for God’s anointed scripture plan then if they get mad it is because of

the conviction of God through His word. Never give them what you think give them what God's Word says. Let them wrestle with God over this issue.

I need to give you a footnote here in that you have no control over how the recipient might receive the rebuke. You must rest in being obedient to the voice of God. If God told you these things need to be addressed then you give it your best. The participant or the recipient has their own steps that they need to go through just as the giver of the rebuke has their own steps. I will go into this later on in another chapter.

What did we learn in this chapter? In this chapter you learned:

The "Sandwich Technique, which includes 4 steps.

- I. Step one: Pray and fast to make sure you have God's plan.
- II. Step two: Start with a positive comment in the person's character.

- III. Step three: Negative comments or should I say the rebuke. This is the meat of your sandwich.
- IV. Step four: End with a positive comment and close in prayer.

Jesus Rebukes Peter

“Receiving the Rebuke”

Let us return to the story of Peter and Jesus and this time let us listen as Jesus strongly admonished Peter. Let us learn a few things from His confrontation with a man in the flesh. Listen to Jesus:

But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” (Matthew 16:23)

I know that you are thinking, “Jesus did not go through the steps you are talking about.” And I would tell you that you are right but then Jesus is God and we are not. He is perfect and we imperfect. So we must go through the steps because if we rebuke someone this strong we are more than likely going to mess it all up and hurt someone.

Remember from chapter one that Peter tried to rebuke Jesus and he messed everything up. For us ordinary humans we are going to hurt someone when we try to instantly rebuke them without checking first with God. But with all that said there might be a time when you are to give a strong rebuke right then and there but you better make sure it is God telling you and not your emotional flesh speaking.

What can we learn from these words that Jesus spoke? We can see that as harsh as these words are Peter stayed he did not run away. We can see that these words must have cut deep into Peter's soul. We also see that these words were truth. The rebuke of God is truth and if you desire to be a child of God then you must learn how to receive the rebuke of God.

- One: Peter did not run away from Jesus and the same is true for you and me. We must not run from Church when we are rebuked. We must not run from relationships and we must run from job to job when we are rebuked.

- Two: We must take a step back when we are rebuked and seek God's face over the issue of the rebuke through humbleness.
- Three: We must pray and fast to make sure our heart stays humble. Our flesh hates the rebuke and pride will try to rise to the surface and take control. The enemy will also come in and help you make some bad mistakes right after a rebuke.
- Four: Wait and receive a scriptural plan that shows you that you are wrong. Also think about the person that is rebuking you and look at their spiritual fruit in their life. If they have great Spiritual fruit in their life then they are worth listening to. Also understand not every rebuke is from God because imperfect people are behind every rebuke.
- Five: Take on only your responsibility in the rebuke. Again don't run away from God or the church. Stay in fellowship with God and continue to seek His face. If the rebuke is true then there is great spiritual power in repenting; that is your responsibility. Just repent and stand up and get

going again. If the rebuke is not true and you are right with God and God is convinced then shake off the dust on your feet and keep on going. But again I say, "Stay in the Church." Do not become a professional church grasshopper; hopping from church to church. Always remember that God has the final say and His judgment is always perfect and true.

- Six: Don't play the blame game; don't point your finger at someone else. Listen to the rebuke and first apply it to your own life. First see if this rebuke is true and what God sees in your actions. Then take the appropriate actions.

The key is to keep your heart soft before God is to humble yourself before God and He will exalt you when He is convinced.

The rebuke of God is part of the Christian's life as it says:

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)NIV

I personally never enjoy getting rebuked. I never liked it when my parents rebuked or disciplined me. My own children never liked getting disciplined either. I am sure you have never liked being rebuked either. But we must start learning that the rebuke is only going to help us if we will humble our hearts and learn from our mistakes.

Story Time: Our daughter had done something biblically wrong in that she was a minor and the unsaved boy was five years her elder. I rebuked her and she went off into her bedroom with a typical teenage attitude. While she was in her room for a few minutes or was it a few hours? I was turning on the television and God said to my heart, “Go get your daughter, she needs to hear this.” So I told my daughter to come out and sit with me to watch this program. The talk show came on and the theme was “Date Rape”. My daughter came out and sat on the sofa still carrying her teenage attitude with crossed arms and crossed legs as she sat on the sofa Indian style. The first story came on and I watched as God started the softening process. The next date rape story came on and it sounded exactly

like what she was going through. The young teen, same age as our daughter, talked in detail how this older man told her he just wanted to be friends. The older man, exactly the same age as the one that wanted my daughter date raped this teenage girl in the middle of a mall parking lot. By time the program went through six different date rape victims my daughter went back to her room but I noticed that the attitude had disappeared. Later she told me that she went into her room and asked God to talk to her and she randomly flipped open her Bible and the only verse she had highlighted on that page was:

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

(2 Corinthians 6:14)

I want you to see that the Lord knows how to reach the human heart and we need to trust Him and seek him for a plan. Our daughter came out of her room later and repented and asked for

forgiveness. Then she obeyed God. Of course the young man called and I answered the phone and asked him what he wanted with my minor child. For some reason he never came around, called, or talked to our daughter again.

In this chapter about receiving the rebuke what have we learned?

1. Don't run away from the rebuke.
2. Seek God's face through humbleness. The rebuke just might be true.
3. Pray and Fast in order to receive a Godly answer.
4. Ask God for a scriptural plan knowing people are human and they might be wrong. On the other hand they might be right and you will allow God's Word to be the standard of truth.
5. Only take on your responsibility in this rebuke and then repent if God requires that of you. Once again this requires a humble heart.
6. Don't play the blame game which we will learn about in the next chapter.

God Rebukes Adam & Eve

“The Blame Game”

Many received rebuking in the Bible. Did Adam and Eve receive a rebuke from God?

God rebuked Eve with very strong words and receive the rebuke even God given rebukes are necessary for our spiritual growth. Did you hear that? We should welcome the rebuke and understand that new spiritual truths are just around the corner. Eve tried to blame someone else, the serpent. Listen to the rebuke of God as He had to deal with Eve's rebellion or wrong behavior:

To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;

In pain you shall bring forth children;

Your desire shall be for your husband,

And he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16)

Our personal thoughts or dysfunction will never change God's truth. God Knew that Eve knew the commandment yet she disobeyed God and listened to the evil one. Eve only had three laws to follow and that was to cleave to her husband, take care of the garden, and don't eat from one tree. God is not moved by our thought process He is moved by the intent within our hearts. Eve tried to blame the serpent but this did not change the rebuke of God. God's rebuke was hard but His judgment was true.

The same for the church today; there is a need that we should quit playing the blame game. In most churches today people are still playing this old game that started in the beginning of mankind. Our first and foremost quest in the rebuke is to take a step back and ask God if this is true. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church:

- Don't run from church to church.
- Don't run from marriage to marriage.
- Don't run from job to job.
- Don't run from relationship to relationship.
- Don't run from the truth.
- Don't run from the rebuke.

Do you hear what the Spirit is saying to your own heart? Let us now see what God has to next.

God had to rebuke Adam with harsh words of truth next. God had to deal with Adam's failure to stand on the principles and the commandment of God. God had to rebuke Adam because he listened to his wife instead of his God. Stop for a moment and meditate on that last sentence. Adam knew the law but he listened to another human instead of heeding the voice of God.

Adam also tried to blame someone else, which is a common fault of us all, yet God rebuked Adam. Listen to the rebuke:

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

*"Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.*

*Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.*

*In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:17-19)*

I do not like to rebuke I would rather show love to all. I am sure God did not want to rebuke Adam and Eve but they left Him no other choice. So it should be in the rebuke. You should never want to rebuke anyone only when we are left with no other choice.

Jesus had no other choice at that moment in dealing with Peter. Jesus had to point blank blast Peter with truth. The truth was that Peter was walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit. The truth was that Peter needed to be humbled. But we know from the rest of the story that Peter did not run away because we find him in the upper room at the day of Pentecost.

I want you to see that the rebuke given by Jesus was very harsh on Peter's heart yet Peter became a great leader in Kingdom business. Peter became a great ambassador for Christ because he stayed and did not run away.

We as Christian's must learn to give and receive the rebuke in order to reach our God given destiny. Peter allowed the Lord to point out that Peter was still on the throne in his own heart. And this throne is designed for only one and His name is Jesus.

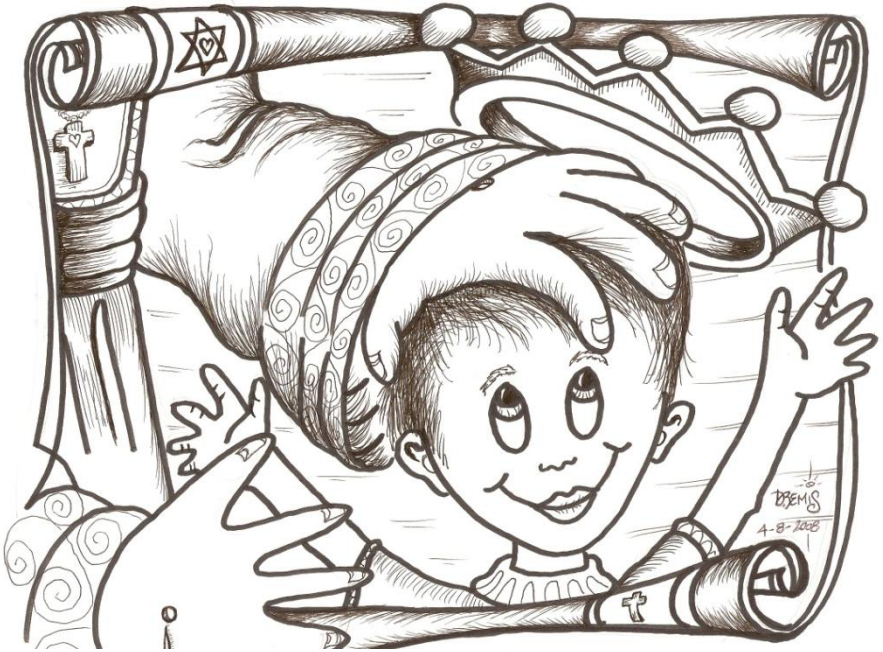
Today in many of our hearts the "Idol of Self" is still on the throne dictating our passions. The rebuke is designed by God to remove "self" and to place on the throne the soon and coming King! Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying to your heart?

If you go and read the rest of the rebuke given by God in Genesis you will read that God also rebuked the serpent. God did not let the serpent even have one word. We should do the same and that is that we need to stop listening to the words spoken by the crafty one.

In this chapter what have we learned?

1. Stop blaming others
2. Stop and listen to the rebuke and take these words to God's Word and see if the rebuke lines up with God's truth.
3. Choose to let your heart be humble and no prideful in the midst of the rebuke. Remember that God always looks at our motive hidden inside our heart.
4. Keep in mind that God's judgment is always true.
5. Remove 'self' off of the throne of your heart and establish Jesus center stage.
6. Bear in mind to heed the voice of God.

Let us now move on to the next chapter. Are you ready? Keep thinking!



*"Humble yourself like a little child before
your God!"*

“Paul Rebukes Peter”

“Receive a Rebuke from Anyone”

Let us look at another time that Peter was rebuked. We must understand this concept about the giving and receiving the rebuke is part of every Christian believer's walk.

Let us read in the epistle how wrong behavior was spotted and Paul and he had to speak up. Yet Peter was the elder in Christianity and Paul was a more recent convert. The younger, Paul is about to rebuke the older Christian. This ought to be good. How will the older receive the rebuke from the younger? As I told you humbleness is a must for both parties. Humbleness is needed in the one giving the rebuke and humbleness is needed in the one receiving the rebuke. Always remember that every rebuke must line-up with the Word of God, PERIOD!

There is great spiritual power in personal humbleness before God. There is great spiritual

power in personal repenting. Both, repenting and humbleness are required in receiving and giving the Christian rebuke.

Let us listen in as Paul explains:

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. (Galatians 2:11-13)

The Apostle Paul spotted a problem and the one behind this wrong Christian behavior. What Paul saw was how Peter was demonstrating two different behaviors hence Peter was in need of a Godly rebuke. That rebuke was handed over to Paul who confronted Peter face to face. Just because you might be young in the Lord stay humble and obedient to the voice of God.

Peter needed to be rebuke because Peter was leading others into this pattern of hypocrisy. Peter was acting one way when he was with others and another when he was in the presence of Jewish people. But we should be the same day in and day out with all people. We should be the same yesterday, today, and forever just as Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Now it is time to continue as we listen to Paul's rebuke to Peter; are you ready?

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? (Galatians 2:14)

Paul could not worry about what Peter thought or if Peter was going to get mad at him. Paul had to heed the voice of God and stand with God in truth. We have to stand with God in truth because

God is truth and He has given us the Spirit of truth to live inside us. Listen to Jesus:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

We have no other choice but to heed the voice of Jesus who is truth. If He is truth then we must stand in God's truth which is recorded for us in His Bible.

We cannot listen to the world's idea of truth but what does the Bible say. Hence if we do not know the Word of God then we do not know God's truth.

Story Time: A man came into our service on Sunday morning and he was dressed real fine in his white three piece suit. In the middle of the service he jumped up and came to the pulpit. He started in pointing his finger at another person in the congregation. About three of us had to jump to our feet and race to the pulpit and bring the young man down and usher him outside. I explained to him that this is the wrong way to rebuke someone. I asked

that he come back to church at 4:00pm and we could talk. After church I prayed and at 4:00 pm we were back at church with this young man. We talked and I kept bringing him back to his own heart and his need for salvation. He told us that he would have to think about salvation but at this moment he was not interested. My responsibility is to offer salvation it is his responsibility to accept, postpone, and receive salvation in the name of Jesus. We must rest and relax in that we did our part. God is big enough to handle this young man. I believe we planted good seed, for the Word of God is always good seed and we had him reading what Jesus said. I know leave the results of this meeting with Jesus.

Here are a few things we learned in this chapter:

1. Receive any rebuke even when it comes from a younger person.
2. Take any rebuke straight to God with a humble heart.

3. If you have to give a rebuke make sure it is from God. Keep your heart humble before your Lord your God.
4. Every rebuke must line up with the Word of God.
5. The rebuke of God is designed to correct wrong behavior.
6. You have a responsibility to give the Godly rebuke to correct ungodly behavior.
7. You cannot control how the other person is going to respond to the rebuke.



Live to please Him who was, is, and is coming again!

Rules of Engagement

“The Rules of Rebuking”

In closing let us review what we have learned from scripture and from this book. Chapter by chapter we will review what God has reviewed to us. Learning about the rebuke of God is long overdue and we all need to review this art. The church and every member of the church is in dire need of learning this art. We need to understand both the giving and the receiving of the Godly rebuke. We need to internalize this process and embrace what God is trying to do in our lives. Let us review what each chapter has brought to the table.

Chapter 1

- † Take a step back and make sure you are not in the emotional stages of your flesh. Keep your heart humble!

- † Pray & Fast-remember we are not God and we might not handle the rebuke in a right manner. So pray and fast to make sure when you are giving a rebuke that is really from God. Remember that the Church is His Bride. Each member of the Church belongs to Him. Be careful how you handle His Bride.
- † Wait for a Scriptural plan from God

Chapter 2

- † The “Sandwich Technique, which includes 4 steps.
 - Step one: Pray and fast to make sure you have God’s plan.
 - Step two: Start with a positive comment in the person’s character.
 - Step three: Negative comments or should I say the rebuke. This is the meat of your sandwich.
 - Step four: End with a positive comment and close in prayer.

Chapter 3

- † Don't run away from the rebuke.
- † Seek God's face through humbleness. The rebuke just might be true.
- † Pray and Fast in order to receive a Godly answer.
- † Ask God for a scriptural plan knowing people are human and they might be wrong. On the other hand they might be right and you will allow God's Word to be the standard of truth.
- † Only take on your responsibility in this rebuke and then repent if God requires that of you. Once again this requires a humble heart.

Chapter 4

- † Don't play the blame game which we will learn about in the next chapter.
- † Stop blaming others
- † Stop and listen to the rebuke and take these words to God's Word and see if the rebuke lines up with God's truth.
- † Choose to let your heart be humble and no prideful in the midst of the rebuke. Remember

that God always looks at our motive hidden inside our heart.

- † Keep in mind that God's judgment is always true.

Chapter 5

1. Remove 'self' off of the throne of your heart and establish Jesus center stage.
2. Bear in mind to heed the voice of God.
3. Receive any rebuke even when it comes from a younger person.
4. Take any rebuke straight to God with a humble heart.
5. If you have to give a rebuke make sure it is from God. Keep your heart humble before your Lord your God.
6. Every rebuke must line up with the Word of God.
7. The rebuke of God is designed to correct wrong behavior.

8. You have a responsibility to give the Godly rebuke to correct ungodly behavior.
9. You cannot control how the other person is going to respond to the rebuke.

End Notes

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ISAIAH 40:31



But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up on wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

MY LIGHT



In Him was life,
And the life
Was the LIGHT of men.
John 1:4



Up to 5X!



Up to 5X!

THE GOOD SHEPHERD



I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd gives
His life for the sheep.

John 10:11

