

*How do you take correction?*

2 Responses (vv7-12)

- response of the wise/righteous – love, growth
- response of the scoffer/wicked – hate, abuse
- correction exposes: ways we are exposed
- consequences of being an exposure-avoider

2 Invitations (vv1-6, 10; 13-18)

- invitation of wisdom – fear and knowledge
- invitation of folly – the enticing counterfeit
- what about the gospel message exposes (and elicits scoffing)?

Questions for reflection:

1. Under what circumstances do you take correction well? When does being exposed lead to growth?
2. Under what circumstances do you respond to correction with defensiveness (scoffing, arguing, silently withdrawing)? When does being exposed lead to depression, resentment, anger?
3. What is your greatest fear? How can fear of God be greater in you, and how can that help you put your other fears in perspective? How is fear an entry way into people having more power over you than you would like?
4. When you are exposed (something you wish didn't come out does), what steps can you take to grow from the experience and set a trajectory for good to come out of it? Think of a particular time you were exposed – what could you have done then that will help you prepare for similar types of events in the future?
5. What in the Christian message do you find offensive or difficult to believe? Are there ways it might touch on an area in your life you are trying to protect?
6. Jesus invites us into fellowship with him, promising life, protection, covering, cleansing – how do we find shelter and protection in God in those moments when our guilt, fear and shame otherwise would control us? What does it look like to trust God's word, which promises mercy and compassion to those who hope in Him?