

***Christianity that does not start
with the individual,
does not start.***



***Christianity that ends
with the individual, ends.***



Mother Teresa

“The worst disease in today’s world is not leprosy or cancer: it is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted, of being deserted and alone.”

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
live in **harmony** with one another (Romans 12:16)
build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
be **likeminded** towards one another (Romans 15:5)
accept one another (Romans 15:7)
admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
be **patient** with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
be **kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
look to the **interests** of one another (Philippians 2:4)
bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
stir up one another to **love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
show **hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
employ gifts that **God has given us** for one another (1 Peter 4:10)
clothe yourselves with **humility** towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
pray for one another (James 5:16)
confess our **faults** to one another (James 5:16)

**The two greatest
commands, on which,
according to Jesus,
all the others depend,
are concerned with
relationships, with God
and one another**

(Matthew 22:36-40)

**44% of the N.T. Epistles are
about our responsibilities
to “one another”
4% are about
teaching and
preaching**

***An important part of Christian
community is responding to sin
in ourselves and in one another.***

Rescue

Repent

Restore



We can't do this alone.

C.S. Lewis

“If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable: think of it as a place of training and correction and it’s not so bad.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Let me never fall into the vulgar mistake of dreaming that I am persecuted whenever I am contradicted.”

Rules for correcting others

(review of last two weeks - How to prevent the incorrecting of others.)

1. **Purify your heart** - make peace with the Way and the Word of the Cross.
2. **Hold your fire** - don't let evil seduce you into retaliation.
3. **Check your motives** - love is the authority to correct others.
4. **Discern the Scripture** - three distinctions: Recognition / Response, Old covenant / New, Church / State.

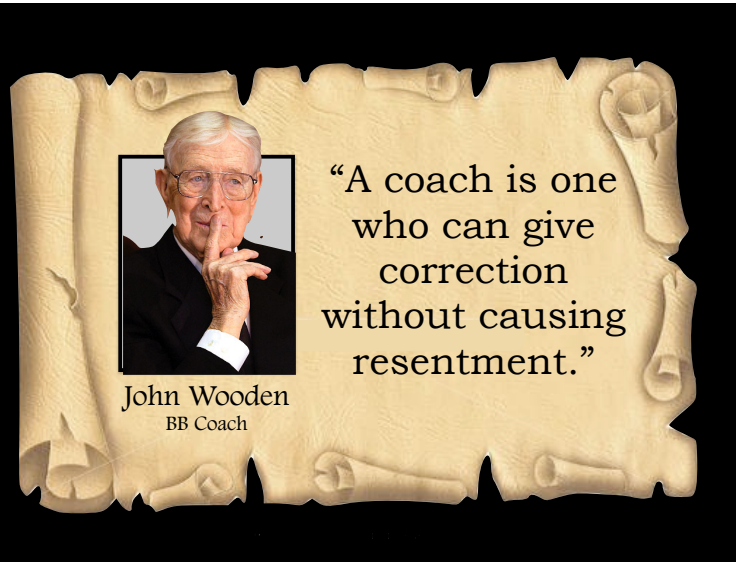
Rules for correcting others

(this week)

5. **Show, Tell, & Pray** - Paul's model

Most of Paul's correction is:

- Modeling
- Education, exhortation, encouragement
- Intercession



Rules for correcting others

(this week)

5. **Show, Tell, & Pray**

"Be imitators of me as I am of Christ"

1 Cor.4:16	Humility
Phil.3:17	Satisfied with God
1 Thess.1:6	Joy in face of trouble
1 Cor.11:1; 2 Thess.3:7,9	Sacrificing for others

"Faith" "Hope" "Love"

Responses to God, circumstances, & people.

The Way of the Cross

Rules for correcting others

(this week)

5. **Show, Tell, & Pray**

What does Paul "tell"

- He draws attention to the **nature** of God, man, and sin.
- He teaches the Word of the **Cross**.
- He gives a theological **rational** for Godly living. (Romans)
- He teaches how to **respond** to failure.

Christianity differs from most religions in that it does not just command obedience

but appeals to:

(relationship, reason, perspective)

Matthew 6

"The eye is the lamp of the body; so that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Three levels of transgression

1. Tolerable transgressions

2. Outward sins (behaviors)

3. Inner sins (belief systems)

Matthew 23:26

"first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also."

James 4:1

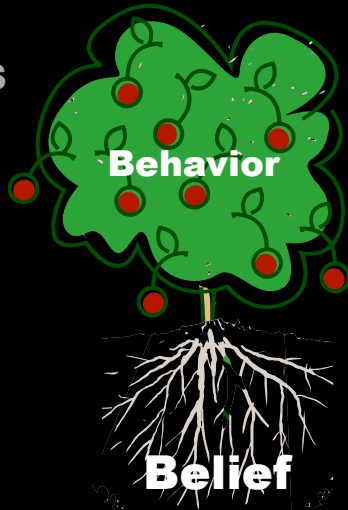
"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members."

Discipline
must address

Outward
conduct

as well as

Inner
rebellion



How is Biblical Christianity distinct?

1. **It differs from Islam and most other religions** - It call us to be good not just to look good.
2. **It differs from new age spirituality** - It calls us to be good, not just to feel good.

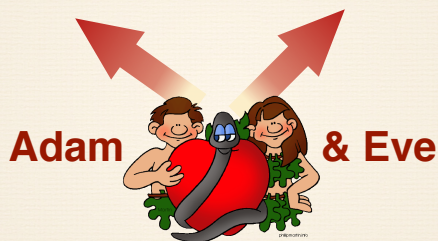
The seedbed of sin

Christ

(walking in the light)

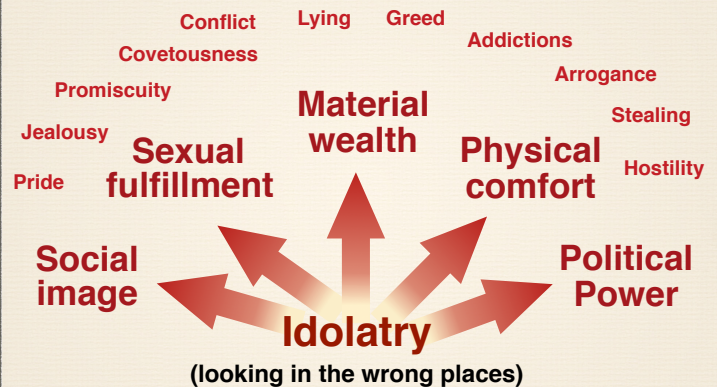
Idolatry

(looking in the wrong places)



**Longings
for Life**

The seedbed of sin



Longings for Life

*Rules for correcting others
(this week)*

5. **Show, Tell, & Pray**

Ephesians 1

“¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

Galatians 6

“¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”

*Correcting others is commanded
and demands courage.*



Oliver Goldsmith
Irish poet

“The majority of people have not the courage to correct others because they don’t have the courage to bear correction themselves.”

Galatians 6

“¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught (**trapped**) in any trespass,”

- **Not innocent but yet Victims**
- **Not helpless but yet Needy**

“you who are spiritual”

- **Not everyone can restore yet all sin.**

“restore (**bring back**) such a one”

- **Not rejection but Restoration**
- **Not push but Pull**



Alan Paton
(anti-apartheid activist)

“If man takes unto himself God’s right to punish, then he must also take upon himself God’s promise to restore.”

“in a spirit of gentleness (**meekness**);”

- **Assertive but Humble**

“each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

- **Not only aware of others but also of self**

“² Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”

- **“law of Christ” - the way of the Cross**
- **Our brother’s keeper**

Matthew 18

1. Privacy is respected.

“¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, **just between the two of you**. **If** he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

2. Pressure is applied proportionately.

¹⁶ But **if** he will not listen, take one or two others along, **so that every matter may be established** by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

3. Public exposure is an advanced strategy.

¹⁷ **If** he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church**;

4. Putting out of fellowship is the final option.

and **if** he refuses to listen even to the church, **treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**”

A guide to correcting others

1. **Purify your heart** - crawl back on the altar if you have fallen off.
2. **Hold your fire** - be slow to speak - don’t let evil seduce you into retaliation.
3. **Check your motives** - love is the authority to correct others. Wait until you are renewed.
4. **Discern the Scripture** - Clear up any confusion about what Scripture teaches.
5. **Show and Tell** - Follow Paul’s model of example, education, exhortation, encouragement.