

I Was Only Trying to Help

There are *those kinds of people* that really are difficult to deal with. You cannot suggest anything, they already 'know' what to do. You cannot discuss things with them, their minds are made up. And if you should ever *try to help* by offering correction, "Watch Out!" They will lash back at you as if you are the one who needs correction.

If you are not expecting that type of reaction, it can really take you by surprise. If you have the presence of mind *not* to strike back, you might feel a hurt and feel uncertain as to what to do next.

One of the greatest values of the Proverbs is that of teaching us about the brutal realities of life. Solomon often makes simple observations that will help us to face life with greater understanding so that we are not surprised, and so that others do not take unfair advantage of us. His teachings help us to move forward in life with our heads held high. He helps us to face life's challenges by 'toughening us up' mentally and emotionally.

**He who corrects a scoffer
gets dishonor for himself,
And he who reproves a wicked man
gets insults for himself.**

--Proverbs 9:7

This is the kind of proverb that presents a true observation about life. It is a, "Brace yourself," kind of advisory. It is *reality!*

The word 'correct' is literally an emphatic 'sternly correct.' In the Hebrew Old Testament it often describes discipline. The term 'reprove' is similar, but it refers more to *verbal* correction.

As far as the scoffer and the wicked are concerned, they already 'know.' So they reject instruction and correction. You do not tell them, they will tell you. They have made choices in life and are set in their ways. You could say that they have set their path 'in stone.'

So, when the scoffer dishonors you, or the wicked person insults you, don't fall apart. Don't cry about it. Understand that God already knows about the scoffer. God has instructed us of the brutal reality of the scoffer through Solomon's writings. Recognize the scoffer and the wicked man for who they are. You are not judging them, but rather making a simple identification based the way they choose to express their character. So, take this wise insight and stand up straight. Do what is right, and move forward without fighting, without crying, and without feeling badly.

And read the next two verses...

Really...God reveals something more...

So, get your Bible...right now...and...

Read two more verses...