



***RCC Phoenix – 7.26.20 – (Love Series: Week 4) Love Corrects***

This week we are discussing love and the role it plays in \_\_\_\_\_.

As children, we quickly learn an \_\_\_\_\_ idea of correction and associate it to punishment.

\_\_\_\_\_ and correction go hand in hand.

To the immature, love and correction don't mix. But the mature know that love \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 12:5-11 NLT**

"And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."

*Padieuo Definition: (Corrects)*

- To train children; to be instructed or taught or learn as a father would punish his so
- Said of those who are molding the \_\_\_\_\_ of others by reproof and admonition

When the Lord corrects us, He is molding our character through the instruction, teaching and (sometimes) punishment similar to what a child would receive from their father.

Hosea is a prophet of the Lord to Israel. He is someone God used to \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.

Hosea lived in approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years before Christ was born.

God is not pleased with Israel. They have turned to worshipping the false god \_\_\_\_\_ and followed in the way of the Canaanites who worshipped the pagan god Molech.

**Hosea 1:2 NLT**

"When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods."

Hosea obeys and marries a prostitute named Gomer. He has 3 children with her which are named by the Lord. After their 3<sup>rd</sup> child is born, Gomer \_\_\_\_\_ on her husband Hosea by going back to her lifestyle of prostitution.

1. Love is \_\_\_\_\_: (Makrothumeo)

*Makrothumeo Definition:*

- Persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles, in bearing the offenses and injuries of others
- To be mild and slow in avenging, to be slow to anger & slow to punish

Hosea would be completely justified in leaving his wife. He would be right under the law and no one would blame him for pursuing a divorce.

God has every right to drop the hammer on Israel, leave them to pursue their own destruction and never return to them again. But God IS love. He is slow to anger, slow to avenge and slow to punish.

God \_\_\_\_\_ Israel's perverse disobedience for several more years as He lovingly uses the life of Hosea to correct them.

God is \_\_\_\_\_, even in His correction.

2. Love is \_\_\_\_\_: (Chresteuomai)

*Chresteuomai Definition:*

- To show oneself mild, be kind, use kindness

Decades of patience followed by several years of a gentle correction through the life of Hosea do not compel Israel to repent. They continue to pervert the truth and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to these false gods so God's correction now goes a step further.

Instead of destroying Israel, He takes away their \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Hosea 2:8-13 NLT**

"She doesn't realize it was I who gave her everything she has— the grain, the new wine, the olive oil; I even gave her silver and gold. But she gave all my gifts to Baal. "But now I will take back the ripened grain and new wine I generously provided each harvest season. I will take away the wool and linen clothing I gave her to cover her nakedness. I will strip her naked in public, while all her lovers look on. No one will be able to rescue her from my hands. I will put an end to her annual festivals, her new moon celebrations, and her Sabbath days— all her appointed festivals. I will destroy her grapevines and fig trees, things she claims her lovers gave her. I will let them grow into tangled thickets, where only wild animals will eat the fruit. I will punish her for all those times when she burned incense to her images of Baal, when she put on her earrings and jewels and went out to look for her lovers but forgot all about me," says the Lord."

The loving kindness driving God's correction is revealed in the next 2 verses.

### **Hosea 2:14-16 NLT**

“But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt. When that day comes,” says the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’ instead of ‘my master.’”

God doesn't humiliate Israel, take away their blessings and leave Israel begging in the street for Him to take them back. God steps up the loving correction but makes immediate plans to woo Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ back to Him because He knows it is the best place for them to be.

God is \_\_\_\_\_, even in His correction.

3. Love is not \_\_\_\_\_: (Paroxuno)

#### *Paroxuno Definition:*

- irritate, provoke, scorn, despise, make angry, to exasperate, to burn with anger

Israel is a dishonest people, the priests are corrupt, the national leadership is failing in following the Lord's ways, they love wickedness, their hearts are corrupt, they are in full fledged rebellion, they have no innocence, they believe in their own strength and more.

Even though they have yet to change, God still relents in destroying Israel.

### **Hosea 11:8-9 NLT**

“Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows. No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy.”

In His final act of correction, God allows Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ some fruit of their disobedience. They are attacked by a surrounding army. Some of them are killed. They have sown disobedience and they have reaped destruction.

The Lord completes the perfect picture of loving correction when the people repent before Him.

And because love is not irritable or exasperated, the Lord provides loving grace to Israel.

### **Hosea 14:4-9 NLT**

“The Lord says, “Then I will heal you of your faithlessness; my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be gone forever. I will be to Israel like a refreshing dew from heaven. Israel will blossom like the lily; it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars in Lebanon. Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees, as fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon. My people will again live under my shade. They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines. They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon. “O Israel, stay away from idols! I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me.” Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.”

God is not \_\_\_\_\_, even in His correction.

He lovingly corrects us to bring us into a place of \_\_\_\_\_.

As Believers in Christ, we need to become \_\_\_\_\_ receiving perfect correction from a perfect Heavenly Father.

**Proverbs 12:1 NLT**

“To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.”

When correcting us, the Lord may:

- Show us an embarrassing situation similar to our own.
- Remove or delay a blessing.
- Reveal what we are truly doing in the open.
- Allow us to experience part of the fruit of disobedience.

God corrected many things in Israel during the time of Hosea including their:

- Affections.
- Desires.
- Attitudes.
- Behavior.
- Thinking.
- Words.

We can expect God to correct those things in us as well. How will He correct them? He changes our \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to see His correction as the act of a \_\_\_\_\_ and perfect Heavenly Father instead of an indictment of our failures.