Healthy Rebuke - 2-26-23

Proverbs 9:8 *“Don’t rebuke a mocker, or he will hate you; rebuke the wise, and he will love you.”*

You cannot judge me. Why are you always on my case? Only God can judge me? Don't tell me how to live my life. I am sure all of us in this room have heard one or more of these thrown at us in our lives. We are to be Christians and to be quiet is the common thinking of the world, but we are told something completely different by the Word of God. We are told that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven. We are to bind or sow seeds of honesty and trust, not lies and deceit.

There is a big difference when dealing with rebuking a Christian as opposed to a non-Christian. We are told in Proverbs that a mocker or unbeliever will hate us for our rebuke but a wise person, or Christian will love us. I can say from first hand knowledge that whenever my attitude or actions are told to me to be corrected by another Christian I have more love for that person. They are looking out for what is best for not only the church but as to me a believer, my own well being.

This message is not popular in the world we live in today where we are to not judge anyone and are to be meek as our english term meekness implies which is weakness. But we are to be meek in the understanding that Paul was writing. It is like a swordsman who knows how to use his sword but keeps it sheaved. When we rebuke a Christian it is not to tear them down but to help them grow and see what is happening. When we are rebuked we are to be wise in knowing that the rebuke is for our own good.

When dealing with the world, we cannot expect the world to act as we do. We cannot expect that their actions reflect Christ as Christ is not who is in control of their lives. We are to warn them of their impending doom, we are to witness to them about Christ, but we cannot control them. We can only pray for them. The world will act like the world, but we as Christians are to live completely different from the world. We are to accept rebuke and we need to be willing to rebuke others as well. We are to be held accountable to each other for that is how we know that others truly love us.

This week remember to read your Bible, pray to your Father in Heaven, and if something is wrong in your spiritual walk confess it before Christ, ask for help from other Christians if necessary. This way we can all walk in the Spirit as it tells us to do so in the Word.

Classes may take their place.