

Pro_9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

What is to reprove? Eph 5:13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. *God's Word is the light.* Psa_119:105 . Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psa_119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light.

Example: we reprove a person *when we bring a light to a dark room in which someone is up to doing a bad thing and his bad work gets revealed and as a result he/she feels that pain of shame and embarrassment. That pain will motivate him either to resent the person exposing his bad deed or by the power of the Holy Spirit will be convicted and will hopefully repent of his sin.*

If you don't want to go wrong when you reprove use the scriptures rightly to reprove.

Who is a scorner? 2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel. 2Ch 30:10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. Mat 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid (a ruler's daughter who was dead) is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. *So a scorner is a person that despises and ridicules (makes fun of) the things of God. Our efforts to convert a scorner is in vain so long as he lives in his scornful state.* Pro_9:7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame. *We can be hated and ashamed when we reprove a scorner.*

On the other hand we read in the second part of our study verse: "rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee".

Why? Because he wants to excel in his testimony for the cause of Christ.

1Co_10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God 2Co_6:3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed. *The wise man knows that the more excellent his testimony for Christ is the more honor and glory will he bring to Christ. He would much rather take the pain of rebuke and correct his ways than allow (by his example) reproach to come upon the holy name of Jesus Christ whom he represents on earth. How we take reproof and correction is an important indicator of our spiritual condition. The two ends of the scale of someone's reaction to the person reproofing him are hate and love. Most people lie somewhere in between.*

The farther we get away from God the more bothersome and annoying reproof become to us. Result: Pro_10:17 he that refuseth reproof erreth (goes the wrong way). Eventually we can become so filled by our pride and arrogance that we will hate reproof. Result: Pro 15:10 he that hateth reproof shall die (hatred of correction results in death to his plans, death to his relation to his family and friends, death to his desires and hopes, etc.).

On the other hand The wiser we become the more we appreciate correction. Pro 13:18 he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.

When we hear reproof from the word of God our natural tendency is to reject it because it hurts our pride. A good medicine for that tendency is to consider Num_32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Who should we reprove or rebuke? Eph_5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them.* Luk_17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. Lev_19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Mat_22:39 Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. *The greatest love to our neighbor is to help them get saved from their sins by giving them the Gospel supported by deeds of love and compassion. If they are saved we can help them lead victorious lives for Christ.*

How should we reprove or rebuke? Make sure you are firmly convinced by the Word of God about what you reprove. 2Ti_4:2 reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Doctrine means teaching and the teachings of the scripture are the surest and most effective means of reproof. 2Ti_3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, ...

Reprove "in the spirit of meekness" (Gal. 6:1) with a soft tongue: Pro_25:15 a soft tongue breaketh the bone. Since reproof can quickly cause anger and tension use soft speech. Pro_15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous (painful or hurtful) words stir up anger. 2Ti_4:2 reprove, ... with all longsuffering. A person that wants

to reprove and rebuke must be ready to “suffer long” and patiently forbear under possibly heavy counter attacks from those exposed and reprovved.