

Elder Bobby Willis



Love Is Not A Defense:

The subject of love has been debated, elevated, and low rated for thousands of years. A common misuse of the meaning of true love is to charge a person with “*not being a loving person*” if they believe in chastisement, either as parents or in the church. Such an attitude is not according to the teachings of scripture. It should be understood that abuse is never tolerated in any setting.

Should we dare to complain when we are chastised for our misconduct? There are two ways we mess up, sins of commission and sins of omission. In many cases, we are guilty of sinning by not doing what we should rather than sinning by doing evil, bad, or corrupt things. When we fail to worship the Lord as we should, we sin. When we fail to check on widows and orphans, we sin. When we fail in any endeavor which the Lord has commanded of us, we sin. When we fail to give God praise, honor and glory which He is due, we sin.

Notice what Paul says in Hebrews 12:5, “**...ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:**” We need not stop there, but read closely verse 6, “**For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**” Paul was reiterating what Solomon said in Proverbs 3:11-12, “**My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**”

Solomon is teaching us that the father who corrects his son (or daughter) does so because he loves him (delighteth) and desires for the son to walk a better path, in like manner as the Lord corrects His children. We, as children of God, should be thankful for the Lord’s chastisement, for in that we know that He loves us.

When a pastor or minister admonishes the church concerning a drift away from proper worship and/or doctrine, or ungodly walk, we should not think that he does not love them, but rather it is because of love that it is done (ministers must

make sure they are being led of the spirit when so doing). There was a time when Paul asked the Galatians, **“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”** (Galatians 4:16). Ungodly people (or those who have messed up along the way) can often be insensitive against those who would correct them, though they are using the Word of God in their instruction.

I have heard it said that a certain sermon was not a *“loving type sermon.”* There are times when that could be the impression if we are not able to discern the true meaning of it being delivered. We, as children of God, need to be reminded on a regular basis of how we are to walk before the Lord and in the ways which please Him. When a preacher preaches the duty of followers of Christ, using the inspired scriptures of God, then it **“is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”** (II Timothy 3:16). Your pastor has not become “unloving” or “meddling” when such sermons are preached. We hopefully can realize that they are preached out of love (and it is the preachers responsibility to make sure they are).

Yes, some of these type sermons may feel like chastisement, but we must remember that proper correction (chastisement) is for our good as II Timothy 3:17 says, **“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”** **“Think About IT”**