

Receiving Correction: Arrogant, Insecure, or Confident. (May 8, 2025)

Jesus tells the church of the Laodiceans, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” (Revelation 3:19) We all make mistakes, so how we receive rebuke and chastening will be a very important factor in how we learn and grow from our mistakes. Can we receive correction without judgment and condemnation? That depends on what chair we’re sitting in.

It’s fairly easy to recognize how the arrogant person responds to correction. They typically reject, ignore, or argue against the correction and source of the correction. It’s far more difficult to recognize how the insecure person responds to correction, because they frame it as unfair, hurtful, or a complete misunderstanding. And whereas we know it is important to protect ourselves against the evils of this life that would harm us, the insecure person will treat helpful correction from a well-intentioned source as something to be avoided at all costs. This makes receiving correction really difficult for a person sitting in the insecure chair.

If any of these thoughts are causing you to resist correction, you may be in the insecure chair:

- Another person must have listened to and perfectly understood me before they can speak into my life.
- Another person must always address me with the respect I deserve if they are going to issue me a correction.
- Another person must make full restitution for their sins against me before I will consider a change I must make toward them.
- Another person must show me that they understand how I have been unfairly treated before they offer a way for me to correct a situation or relationship.
- Another person must make me feel special or loved before they offer correction.

Being proactive and receiving feedback are two of the ways Dr. Karyn Gordon advised us to move to the “Middle Chair.” The thoughts listed above are signs that we are resisting both.