

**I make mistakes; I am not a mistake.
(May 15, 2025)**

“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?” (Hebrews 12:7) God knows that we are not perfect in our experience merely as a result of confessing our sin and receiving Jesus as our Savior. The sanctification process is to work out in our experience what is now true of us in our relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. That process requires “chastening.”

However, as we noted in our previous message, if we remain personally insecure or arrogant, we are not going to respond to God’s chastening and correction in a beneficial way. The typical growth process in the Christian life involves: our trying and failing, God’s chastening and correction, then we try again, and eventually we succeed and grow. However, if we fight against correction out of arrogance or we spiral into despair due to insecurity, we will not respond to God’s chastening in faith...and as a result we will not learn and grow.

One of the things that can help us receive God’s correction is to remember that “who I am” and “what I do” are not exactly the same thing. “Who I am” defines my personal character and relationship with God. “What I do” details my behavior and actions. Therefore, when I make a mistake and receive God’s correction, He is dealing with my behavior and actions. He is not threatening to destroy me and dissolve my relationship with Him. I am God’s child. My relationship with Him is secure.

Remember, when we make a mistake and sin against God, it doesn’t make us “bad.” Mistakes are “its,” not persons. They are “things we do;” they are not “who we are” in Christ. We will fail, but we are not failures. We are “more than conquerors.”

Our relationship with God is secure in Jesus Christ...that frees us to try, fail, learn, and grow without fear that we be discarded or destroyed because of our own mistakes.