

**If someone disagrees with us, (whether it is a doctrine or tradition) our natural tendency is to get upset.**

Proverbs 29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh **which corrected us, and we gave them reverence:** shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Job 5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore **despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:**

Proverbs 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; **neither be weary of his correction:**

Hebrews 12:5 And 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:**

You say God hasn't corrected me, only people criticize me. Well just remember that the Lord usually uses people and there is usually a measure of truth in all words.

1Thessalonians 5:21 **Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**

In other words there is a measure of truth in most criticism, so pray, examine yourself and your motives. If some of it fits then change it, If it don't, then forget it and don't be bitter or hurt in any way.

We are human and we make mistakes, so why do we get hurt or upset when we hear something that is against OUR traditions or beliefs?

God uses the foolishness of preaching, to guide and lead people in their daily Christian walk.

1Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

We should be more like the Giant Redwoods of California, It's bark or skin is a foot or so thick. Logging trucks or equipment has hit or brushed the side and peeled off a foot thick of bark, but the sap did not run out and kill the tree. Because their bark is thicker than a foot. Now the bark or skin of a Pine tree or Birch or Aspen, are very thin and if their bark is knocked off, they bleed sap and may even die.

Now what would you rather be like?

The Giant Redwood that has very thick bark and grows big and tall and can withstand a moderate forest fire.

OR

The thin skinned trees that can't take any abuse or criticism they might die. (like most Christians)

This is why the average local church in North America is dead. The pastors have compromised and watered down their message so as not to offend anyone. (except the Lord)

2Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

You see, It is through the WORD that we are directed, instructed and even chastised.

Prior to the 70's the word of God was preached and shared in it's entirety, Heaven and Hell, the punishment of sin, and the reward of the righteous.

If you are offended by righteous preaching, there's a strong possibility you are wrong and need to seek the Lord for guidance and forgiveness.

Since 1948 we have been living in what the bible calls THE LAST DAYS.

2Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2Timothy 3:1to 7 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

We need to be long-suffering in these last days.

Bro Ken