

# Open Rebuke is Better than Secret Love, part 1

*Does God expect us to forgive everyone?*

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What is open rebuke?

It can be a personal assault against you *or* against another *or* can be an offense against God.

Learning to tell another their fault must be done the way you would have someone correct you – with kindness! Most importantly, the correction must be based on God’s Word – not on something trivial like not liking their hairstyle.

The individual who is correcting must be sincere and truly desire God’s best for that situation – this will lead to spiritual maturing for the individual who is being corrected. The worst thing one can do is to gloss over the friend’s sin with flattery or taking his side because of being afraid of destroying the friendship!

But know this:

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)

- Rebuking a brother for sin is true YHVH Love; it is not man’s love.
- Did you know that this was practiced in the Torah! (Lev 19:17-18)
- Not correcting you brother in the LORD is truly hatred.
- YHVH’s standard is that “love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth (YHVH’s Word).” (I Cor 13:6)
- Love does not cover another’s sin. (James 5:19-20: once there is repentance, the sin is forgiven; thus the multitude of sins are forgiven)
- Both individuals need to promote a God’s Holy Standard for without it one will not see God in addition, both are establishing true friendship and the God kind of Love!

The point remains: *Do you really have true loving friends? Are you a true loving friend?*

Consider Solomon’s proverb: “Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.”

(Proverbs 27:5-6)

Secret love (man-made love) is friendship and affection that is void of God’s character of love.

Why? Because God’s will brings correction, by pointing toward the Scriptures for understanding and wisdom.

The concept that ‘open rebuke is better than secret love’ is not a New Testament creation but rather practiced in the Torah!

“You must not harbor hatred against your brother in your heart. Directly rebuke your neighbor, so that you will not incur guilt on account of him. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD....” (Leviticus 19:17-18)

Let’s look at Luke 17:3-4:

“Watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times returns to say, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”...

And again Matt 18:15-17:

“If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, regard him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

*I will pick up next week.*

This week, I encourage you to ponder:

Do I *really* have true & loving friends?

Am I a true & loving friend?

Remember Solomon’s proverb: “Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

(Proverbs 27:5-6)