

#TargetPractice: Why does Jesus correct us and what should be our response?

Have you ever received a consequence for something you did wrong and your parent said, "I do this because I love you?" Does that make sense?

Imagine a young kid has been told to stay out of the road. But one day, he runs into the road to get a ball that got away. His mom talks to him, telling him that for disobeying and going into the road, he will not get to play with his ball for the rest of the week. Now that may not sound fair to the kid, but why does his mom punish him in this way?

She loves him and wants him to be safe. If she doesn't do something that helps him to remember to not go into the road, he may go out there again and get hit by a car.

As a parent, there are lots of times that a consequence has to be given in order to correct the kid because something worse could happen if they aren't corrected. This is done out of love for the child.

It is the same with God and us. He loves us and wants us to do what is right. He is willing to correct and even punish us at times in order to help us be safe and do the right thing. But we have to be willing to learn and make those changes. (just like we have to be the one to learn and change as children learning from our parents)

Revelation 3:19-20 says, *"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."*

This is Jesus talking. What do you think this verse means? There are some words in there that might be tricky. Let's read a different version to see if it makes more sense.

"I correct and punish those whom I love. So be eager to do right. Change your hearts and lives. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. And he will eat with me." Revelation 3:19-20 ICB

Jesus says that He **corrects** those whom He loves. When we do something that we know is wrong and feel guilty about it, that is called conviction. It is the Holy Spirit letting us know that we need to ask for forgiveness and change that behavior.

Jesus also says that He is **knocking** at the door and is waiting for you to answer. What does that look like?

If you choose to open the door, He will come in and **'eat'** with you.

Eating together is a time of close fellowship. That has always been a favorite part of my day. As a kid, my family ate supper together every night. It was a time to talk about our day and

reconnect. We would laugh and even share about problems we might have had. In fact, we would sit at the table even after we finished eating, continuing to connect and spend time together.

Our family does that now

Jesus wants to spend time with you. He wants to hear about your troubles and your successes. He wants to encourage you and help you make the right choices. And He isn't just sitting wishing you will come to Him. Jesus is actively 'knocking at the door'. All you have to do is 'open' it and 'let Him in'.

I've seen an artist's interpretation of this verse. Let's look at it.



What do you notice about this picture? There is no handle on the door! That means the person on the inside has to be the one to open it.

Jesus will not force you to let Him in. You have to let Him in.

Door Hangers???