

# “God’s Correction by Consequences and Mercy”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with my series about God’s correction. This particular study was titled “God’s Correction by Consequences and Mercy.”

Following are some of the scriptures from that Bible study.

## **Value of consequences**

Since human parents understand the value of children learning valuable lessons through experience (dealing with consequences), it is obvious that our heavenly Father helps us learn lessons through the consequences of our life.

Notice a few of the early consequences in the book of Genesis.

- Genesis 3:14-15—The serpent faced consequences for his role in influencing Adam and Eve to sin.
- Genesis 3:16—Eve faced consequences for her actions.
- Genesis 3:17-19—Adam faced consequences for his actions.

Notice another example of consequences—this time it is Moses having a request denied by God.

- Deuteronomy 3:23-25—Moses described how he requested to see the Promised Land.
- Deuteronomy 3:26—Moses described that his request was denied—as a consequence of previous behavior.
- Deuteronomy 3:27—Moses described that God instructed him to climb to a high place and to view the land from afar.

The account in Ezekiel 18:1-29 shows that connection of consequences to behavior.

- Ezekiel 18:4—This verse (which is repeated in verse 20) says: “The soul who sins shall die.”

This phrase means that individuals have consequences for their actions.

- Ezekiel 18:5-9—Each person deals with consequences from his behavior—both obedience and sin.
- Ezekiel 18:10-13—If a child disobeys, the child suffers the consequences.

- Ezekiel 18:14-18—If a parent disobeys, the parent suffers the consequences.
- Ezekiel 18:19—People ask: “Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?”
- Ezekiel 18:20—The answer: “The soul who sins shall die.”
- Ezekiel 18:21-23—If a wicked person changes, he shall surely live.
- Ezekiel 18:24—If a righteous person sins, he will suffer consequences.
- Ezekiel 18:25-29—God deals with people in a fair manner, because of His use of consequences.

### **Value of mercy**

Before you leave Ezekiel 18, consider verses 30-32 to soak up the concept of the Father’s desire to extend mercy.

Ezekiel 18:30—“Repent, and turn from all your transgression, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”

Ezekiel 18:31—“Cast away from you all the transgression which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?”

Ezekiel 18:32—“For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies . . . Therefore turn and live!”

The Bible is filled with scriptures about the mercy of the Father and the Son. Consider a few verses.

- Matthew 9:12-13
- Matthew 12:1-8 and 1 Samuel 21:1-6
- Luke 23:39-43
- John 8:1-11

### **Consequences and mercy**

Let’s notice two famous examples about the combination of consequences and mercy.

■ 2 Samuel 12:11-23—After the Lord pronounced the severe penalty for David’s sin, David repented—and, while that repentance opened the door for David to receive the mercy of forgiveness, God still enacted the consequence of the child dying.

■ Luke 15:11-19—The father in the parable allowed his son to learn lessons through consequences.

■ Luke 15:20—The father expressed deep love before the son had the chance to express his apology and to show his appreciation.

■ Luke 15:21-24—After the son expressed his apology and showed his appreciation, the father organized a huge celebration.

Remember that your heavenly Father loves you even before you repent.

Your repentance does not increase the love of the heavenly Father toward you.

Your repentance expands your relationship with your heavenly Father.