

Right or Happy?

Description

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Proverbs 3:1-12

Do you want to be right or happy? That was the marriage advice a friend gave my mother on her wedding day. In marriage and in life, we can spend so much time trying to be right that we destroy all the joy in us and around us.

Being right is a heavy weight to bear. If we always have to be right, then we are always anxious, always on the defensive, and never really learning. The tension can eat us alive. "Do not be wise in your own eyes . . . This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:7-8). Accepting our own foolishness is good medicine.

David bravely calls out; "Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness; let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head" (Psalm 141:5). We are never the smartest person in the room. Every person has something to teach us. Sometimes painful rebuke is the kindest act. "Wounds from a friend can be trusted" (Proverbs 27:6).

We are not as wise as we think. We are not as right as we think. Rebuke and faithful wounds may be our only path to healing.

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