

“Sir, you are better than that.”

MC Mitchell, USN

GAP = the space between who I am now and the best version of myself

- We all have gaps.
- We all experience the gaps of others.

God wants us to get over/it quicker than we typically do.

WHY?

- He knows the best version of us.
- His agenda is restoration.
- He’s already made provision.

God loves to close gaps!

The Issue: what we typically put in the gap

- Ignorance & blind spots
- Emotions that we can justify
- Pretension
- Blame & Bitterness
- Defensiveness
- Acceptance of “who I am”

Proverbs 15:31

The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

Reproof:

Correction with the intention of guiding back to a righteous path

Reproof Responsibilities:

- Person being corrected:
 - To have an “ear”
- Person doing the correcting:
 - For it to be “life-giving”

Reframe reproof:

- a) Where do you value reproof and correction? Where do you resist it?
- b) What is my default reaction to correction? Why?

1) Bring three great lies into the light:

- a) The Lie of Autonomy

- b) The Lie of **Self-Sufficiency**
- c) The Lie of **Arrival**

2) Embrace God's vision of **life and love**.

Proverbs 15:32-33

Whoever ignores instruction **despises himself**, but he who **listens** to reproof gains intelligence. The **fear of the Lord** is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes **before** honor.

The Life Vision → **Becoming** (which *always* involves **overcoming!**)

- a) Fear of the Lord
- b) Humility

Correction in the “Becoming” Vision:

Threat → Means of Grace & Opportunity

The Love Vision → **Total & Complete**

- a) **Accepting** Love
- b) **Transforming** Love

Proverbs 27:5-6

Better is **open rebuke** than hidden love. 6 Faithful are the **wounds of a friend**; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Holiness vs. Happiness Paradigms: Collision or Complement?

What is the goal of all human relationships in God's Vision?

- Marriage ... ?
- Parenting ... ?
- Friendships ... ?
- In the church ... ?

What is the goal of all human relationships in God's Vision?

→ To be a **tool** used by God to help one another become our **future glory-selves**

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NLT)

Even **before He made the world**, God **loved us and chose us** in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance **to adopt us** into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him **great pleasure**. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son.

2 Corinthians 5:17

... if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The **old** has passed away; behold, the **new** has come.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go ...

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how **to stir up** one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see **the Day** drawing near.

When I do not see any gaps, I will **not assume** they are not there (but the opposite).

- Correction: **Preventative and Permission**

When I see the gap in myself ...

- I will **remain in Christ's** love
- I will refuse to **privatize** it
- I will not be **too proud** to ask for help

When someone comes to correct me ...

- I will remain **humble** ...
- I will not **turn the tables** ...
- I will look for **the truth** ...

Galatians 6:1 (J.B. Ph)

Even if a man should be detected in some sin ... the **spiritual ones** among you should **quietly** set him back **on the right path**, not with any feeling of superiority but being yourselves on guard **against temptation**.

When I see the gap in someone else ...

- I will refuse to talk **ABOUT** them ...
- I will refuse to **rush in** ... in my "rightness"
- I will be **gentle & reasonable** (or wait or stay out!)
- I will ensure the goal is always **restoration**

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