

# Rebuking In the Bible



Rebuke intro: Humans rebuke more than God does

*Psalm 141:5 “Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness; let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it, for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.”*

The word *rebuke* has never been met with a parade. People don't line up in the streets and shout with gladness for being rebuked with tears of joy. Kids don't go home and ask their parents for a good old fashion rebuking. In-fact, this word is not really used anymore. I can't imagine this generation letting someone rebuke them. Oh sure, on social media we see it. People are bashing one another all the time. We know how to rebuke someone. Today they call it shaming, canceling, or enlightening someone on their views. Let's face it, a good rebuke seems like a bad thing.

Honestly, what is the word rebuke anyways? In the dictionary it's described as *an expression of strong disapproval or to criticize sharply*. One description says it's to blunt. I found that interesting. We make statements that cause a stir. People administer actions that make society mad. Recently, my government called for a lockdown because of the virus. However, some of those officials went on vacation. The people rebuked them. These officials said it was no big deal. The people blunted their words. Many of them ending up getting fired or demoted for their actions. We know how to rebuke.

The biggest critics of God say he is demanding and harsh. It's all about commands and rebuking. Unfortunately, Christians have rebuked society for sex, smoking, drinking, and adultery. I could list at-least 70 more. Matthew 7:1-2 *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* Jesus goes on to ask us to not look at the speck in a person's eye but the log in our own. He means that rebuking sin needs to begin in the mirror. This word rebuke is only found one hundred times in the entire Bible. Sex is found seventy-seven times. Christians should not dwell on rebuking because God didn't either. I could say the same thing for sex!

However, the word love is quoted six hundred and eighty-six times. God is all about love far more than rebuking. Yet, the non-believers always say God is negative and harsh. I want to do this small study on rebuking in the Bible because it's interesting. It's not meant to clear God's name although it does. Look at Proverbs 1:23 *“Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you, my teachings.”* A rebuke from the Lord is to teach and change our path. Proverbs 3:11 *“My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke.”* The real God of the Bible is a loving parent that instructs, rebukes, and loves. Yet, he loves far more than he chides us for wrongs.

1 John 4:9 *“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”*

The point of Rebuking is to make a change. Jesus mentioned that when he dies, he will send another. That other (The Holy Spirit) will reside within us. On the cross Jesus did not rebuke those who killed him. Instead, he asked his Father in heaven to forgive them. We will see that Jesus did rebuke things and people. He blunted demons and religious leaders. God's word rebukes his people and creation. A powerful wave is rebuked into becoming a quiet surf.

Humans do much of the rebuking in the Bible. Our modern-day Christian leaders are no different. We tend to rebuke actions instead of intentions.

I want to take a look at five types of rebuking in the Bible. The first will be called *rebuking things*. Jesus rebuked the wind on the sea. Secondly, I will touch on people rebuking others. Unfortunately, God has taken a bad rap for our mouth towards others. Thirdly, I want to look at Jesus rebuking some of the types of leaders around him. From Peter to the Pharisees, Jesus used words to blunt their words. Finally, there is wisdom in rebuking. Most of the uses of this word are found in warnings and teachings. Do you want God to rebuke you? We should heed the instructions (rebuke) of the Lord.

One of the downfalls of this current society is rebuking. We see a ton of shaming or rebuking on social media. Clearly, the church went too far in judging society. Matthew 7:6 “*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*” I was taken back by this verse the other day. Radio preacher J Vernon McGee made the comment that we should not rebuke the world because they will use it against us. They do not know God but they know rebuking. It occurred to me that casting God’s word out to the world will come back in rebuke and scorn. Isn’t that true? Maybe, just maybe rebuking (in the Bible): whether in love or for harsh instruction was meant for Christians only.