

SCOFFER

DEFINITIONS:

Kidner—The mischief he does is not the random mischief of the ordinary fool, but the deeper damage of the debunker and deliberate trouble-maker (42).

Kitchen—The scoffer is no longer a simpleton who curiously investigates folly here and there, but is one who has become confirmed in the reviling of all authority (49).

Waltke—No man earns more universal detestation or deserves it more than he...who is himself incapable of deep loyalty and reverence and who supposes that it is his mission in life to promote the corrosion of the values by which individuals and society lives. To restore order, he must be driven out of the community by force (22:10) (113).

3 characteristics of scoffers:

1. A scoffer is ruled by pride

Proverbs 21:24 *“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, Who acts with insolent pride.*

Proverbs 3:34 *Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.*

2. A scoffer is impervious to correction

Proverbs 9:7 *He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself. 8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.*

Proverbs 13:1 *A wise son accepts his father’s discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

Proverbs 15:12 *A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, He will not go to the wise.*

3. A scoffer is hardened by consequences

Proverbs 19:25 *Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd, But reprove one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge.*

Proverbs 21:11 *When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.*

Prov 29:1 *A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.*

REMEDIES:

1. Repent from every instance of pride

Proverbs 11:2 *When pride comes, then dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.*

Luke 14:11 *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

James 4:6 *God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

2. Refrain from rejecting correction and authority

2 Tim. 3:1 *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.*

3. Do not despise the Lord's discipline that brings crucial lessons

Prov. 3:11 *My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord Or loathe His reproof, 12 For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

Prov 6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.*