

“The Correction of Error”

(T-9.III)

1. Your ego is critical based on what makes sense to it—its standards of what is right and what is wrong.

“Egos are critical in terms of the kind of sense they stand for” (1:2).

2. Your ego is then vigilant for violations of its standards. It looks for the errors of others.

“The alertness of the ego to the errors which other egos make is *not* the kind of vigilance which the Holy Spirit would have you maintain” (1:1).

3. When it notices one, it 1) points it out to the other person and 2) “corrects” it.

“To the ego, it is kind and right and good to point out errors and “correct” them” (1:5).

4. Yet by pointing out the errors of another’s ego, you are coming from your own ego.

“If you point out the errors of his ego, you must be seeing him through yours” (3:1).

“When you react at all to errors...you are listening to your ego and making as little sense as the brother whose errors you perceive” (4:1, 3).

5. Your ego cannot correct error, for it is itself the essence of error and correction lies in relinquishing it.

“This makes perfect sense to the ego, which is totally unaware of what errors are and what correction is. Errors *are* the ego, and correction of errors of any kind lies solely in the *relinquishment* of the ego” (1:6-7).

6. You cannot correct error—in others or yourself. Only the Holy Spirit can do that.

“You cannot correct *yourself*. Is it possible, then, for you to correct another?” (6:1-2).

“Any attempt you make to correct a brother means that you believe correction by you is possible, and this can only be the arrogance of the ego. Correction is of God” (8:5-6).

7. By seeing errors and reacting to them as real, you make them real to yourself, which has negative ramifications for you.

“To perceive errors in anyone and react to them as if they were real is to make them real to you” (7:1).

8. Rather than telling your brother he is wrong, you need to tell him he is right, not because of what he is saying (which might be nonsense), but because he is a Son of God.

“But your task is still to tell him *he is right*. You do not tell him this verbally if he is speaking foolishly, because he needs correction at another level, since his error is at another level. *He* is still right, because he is a Son of God. His ego is always wrong, no matter what it says or does” (2:3-5).

9. Rather than trying to change him, accept him as he is—as he *really* is. His errors are not part of him, do not come from the truth in him.

“It is not up to you to change him, but merely to accept him as he is. His errors do not come from the truth that is in him, and only this truth is yours” (6:4-5).

10. “When a brother behaves insanely, you can heal him only by perceiving the sanity in him” (5:1).

11. You must give his errors over to the Holy Spirit.

“If you want to give yours over to the Holy Spirit, you must do this with his. Unless this becomes the one way in which you handle all errors, you cannot understand how all errors are undone” (5:3-4).

Exercise

Think of someone whose error you have repeatedly tried to correct. Then repeat these lines to this person:

By pointing out the errors of your ego, I have been seeing you through my ego.

I have thus been making as little sense as you.

Rather than telling you that you are wrong, I now tell you that you are right.

Not because of what you are saying.

You are right because you are a Son of God.

I'm done with trying to change you.

I accept you as you are, which is beyond all error.

Beyond your insane behavior, I see the sanity in you.

I give your errors, along with mine, over to the Holy Spirit,

Who is the only One Who can correct them.