
SENSITIVITY!

SENSITIVITY!—By Peter
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1. WE'RE ALL SENSITIVE IN SOME AREAS, WE ALL HAVE OUR SENSITIVE FEELINGS AT SOME TIME, BUT SOME PEOPLE HAVE IT A LOT MORE THAN OTHERS!—And if you do, it's extremely dangerous. It's explained in this quote that I read this morning: "Those who won't be counselled can't be helped." It's like those who are so sensitive that you can't say anything to them or they're just going to fall to pieces, you can't help them! What can you do? You can't tell them anything!

2. WHAT HAPPENS IS YOU START BUILDING UP A WALL AROUND YOU & NOBODY CAN TELL YOU

ANYTHING BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO FALL TO PIECES IF THEY DO! So what happens then is nobody tells you anything! If you insulate yourself & react so defensively, nobody's going to tell you anything! So what happens then?—You start getting off the beam & start doing things wrong & you just start going your own way, & nobody tells you, & nobody helps you, because you've put yourself in a position where you've made everybody afraid to tell you anything!

3. YOU ARE SO VERY SENSITIVE TO THE POINT THAT I MUST WARN YOU ABOUT IT NOW so that you don't get yourself into a position where you become useless! Because that's

what can eventually happen & that's the end of the road. Till, you're a long way from the end of the road now, but that's what could potentially happen at the end of the road!

4. YOU CAN'T TELL SENSITIVE PEOPLE ANYTHING, THEREFORE YOU CAN'T TELL THEM WHEN THEY'RE WRONG or even insinuate or even hint that maybe something's wrong, & pretty soon they don't grow or they don't change, they don't get corrected & they don't progress, so pretty soon they're left behind & they're not any good! Nobody can say anything to them because they're going to cry or they're going to get so upset that it's going to crush them, so you just don't!

5. LET'S SAY YOU HAVE TWO PEOPLE YOU CAN GO TO TALK & COUNSEL WITH—ONE OF THEM TAKES EVERYTHING IN STRIDE & IS VERY EASY TO TALK WITH, & THE OTHER ONE ISN'T. So when you need to discuss or counsel an issue with one of them, who are you going to go to?—The one you can easily pour out to! But this has been a problem in your Home, that people feel they can't approach you with their suggestions & questions or changes because you're so sensitive you take everything too personally! But you can consciously get over it if you ask the Lord to help you! You can decide not to be a certain way. A lot of it has to do with your own will, your own desire, your want to change, but then you have to decide that you want to change, because if you don't, you won't! It's real simple!

6. DAD SAYS SENSITIVITY IS PRIDE, PEOPLE ARE TOO PROUD TO TAKE IT, THEY'RE TOO PROUD TO THINK THAT THEY COULD BE WRONG, that they could make a mistake. Well, we all make mistakes & we all need correction! I got a nice reproof from Mama before I left on this trip, & it hurt, but I needed it!

7. WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CORRECTION FROM EACH OTHER, & if you're not willing to, then it's going to do you an awful lot of harm! You'll start living in a dream world because nobody will ever tell you if something's wrong, because they know that if they do, you're going to fall to pieces!—Therefore they don't! It's a bad state for everybody because then nobody can be honest with you. They can't change anything, they can't correct anything, they can't even hint at it. Sensitivity is a real device of the Enemy!

8. WE'VE GOT TO WANT CORRECTION, WE'VE GOT TO WANT TO CHANGE, WE'VE GOT TO WANT TO FIND OUT IF WE'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG! But if you're too sensitive, you can't get the correction & lessons that you need. In your case, on one hand you've learned to take things very well, like when you've received messages from Dad. Dad has even scolded you personally for things

before & you've learned to take that quite well, when it was your work & you did it wrong. Maybe you go to pieces later, but you didn't show it, & I think it's just because you've gotten used to it & you realise that even if you make a boo-boo that Dad still loves you & by the next day he's completely forgotten it & he's of course still nice to you. So in that case it's not so bad.

9. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN YOU GET A PHONE MESSAGE FROM DAD ABOUT YOUR UNIT'S PRODUCTION, HE'S NOT EVER TALKING TO YOU ABOUT PERSONAL THINGS, your personal walk with the Lord & your personal life, but he talks to you about your work. So it seems like you've learned to accept correction under Dad, but you are not accepting it so willingly on any other basis from those around you, which is something you really need to work on.—Because it affects others too, it doesn't just affect you.

10. YOU CREATE THE WAY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO TREAT YOU BASED ON HOW YOU ARE WITH THEM. For example, if I was new in your Home & I didn't know you & you were always very open & honest with me & cheerful & happy, then I in turn would respond that same way back to you. But if you were always very sensitive & I once or twice tried to say anything & it offended your sensitivity & you got all upset, & you either got all in the dumps or talked back or clammed up or whatever, then what would it create in me? It would create in me a certain defense to the way I would behave towards you. I sure wouldn't want to risk mentioning those things any more. Therefore I would start becoming something that I wasn't. Maybe I'd start having to be careful & not as free & as open, because I know the result in you would be so hurt or sensitive.

11. THE SAME THING HAPPENED WITH MY ROOMMATE & ME. IT CAME TO THE POINT THAT I JUST DIDN'T CORRECT HER ON THINGS, OR NOT VERY MUCH. But I knew that if I just made a slight hint that she'd done something wrong, she was going to take a nosedive & be all hurt because she's so sensitive, & then I was going to have a big three-hour pick-me-up session each time, & I don't have three hours to spare! So I stopped correcting her to make it easier on both of us & she just drifted off! And that's the way it was with everybody, they all stopped correcting her & confronting her, because they knew that every time they even mentioned or suggested to her a change or an order, it was going to be a big deal!—When it didn't need to be since usually it was over just little everyday things! But her sensitivity made her react so dramatically that people wanted to avoid any confrontations. So it wasn't really any help to her that I stopped correcting



her, it was actually harmful for her spiritual growth, & it was also bad for me because I began to react differently towards her.

12. TAKE THE SITUATION WITH A NAGGING WIFE who nags & murmurs at her husband, just nags, nags, nags so much it eventually makes the husband hate her! Well, if she stopped doing that & she started being loving & caring & sweet for a change, eventually the husband would change too! But a nagging wife can create a husband who hates her because of her nagging. It's the same with sensitivity, if you won't let people tell you things & you go to pieces when they do, & the slightest hint that something's wrong just causes you to worry yourself sick & go to pieces, you're putting yourself in a position where no one's going to tell you anything & you're creating a certain reaction in others that's not necessarily good! So it hurts both parties!

13. SENSITIVE PEOPLE CAN ALSO TAKE EVERY LITTLE COMMENT SO PERSONALLY, they believe total fabrications which are completely untrue! They can get on a big bumper about a little Home announcement that's not even directed at them, & worry that "people don't like me" & "this means that & that means this!"—which is all just crazy! But because you dwell on it & imagine & worry so much, to you it is true, the Enemy just lies to you about it! Pretty soon you have a tea party with the Devil over it & you're all down & discouraged & in the dumps & you think everybody's upset at you! So that's where sensitivity leads to!

14. SOMETIMES PEOPLE THINK SENSITIVITY IS A GOOD THING. They say, "Well we're supposed to be sensitive to the Spirit." And that is a good thing, to be sensitive to the Spirit, but that's a different kind of sensitivity! What this kind of sensitivity amounts to is pride, because you don't want to be corrected. "Oh, don't tell me this because it's too much for me, & if you tell me I'm going to go to pieces, so you'd better not tell me!" What you're really saying is, "Please

don't correct me or ever insinuate I'm wrong because I can't take it!" And then no one corrects you & then you don't change & then you just stagnate & die on the vine! You become fruitless! Don't worry, you're not that way now, but that's why I'm telling you all this, so you won't be!

15. EVERYBODY GETS IN THEIR LITTLE NICHE, the kitchen help, the office worker, the handyman or childcare helper, & you too know your area quite well, & everybody just sort of learns to accept the way you are & the way you do things. The danger is when everyone gets complacent & settled in, & then nobody corrects each other. For example, John used to always make the Folks' food, but now Bruce does a lot of it because John does other things. So John, who's been around longer & therefore knows a lot more about it than Bruce, comes in & sees Bruce doing something wrong, but he doesn't tell him! Because he thinks, "Now this is Bruce's domain so I don't want to say anything because of what he'll think of me!" Even when Bruce is wasting food & he does things wrong & John sees him doing it, he doesn't tell him! "Oh, I don't want to hurt his feelings." That's ridiculous! So now what happens? Bruce's been doing things wrong for seven months because John was too proud & sensitive to tell him, & maybe Bruce was a little too proud & sensitive to take it too!

16. WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS THAT & what does it result in? We have people who can do the job, but not do it right! But it's our responsibility to teach people to do it right! In your case, if you do something out of line & your co-worker thinks it's out of line, he should be able to tell you, & you should be able to take it, & the same is true vice-versa.

17. WE AS LEADERS TELL PEOPLE THINGS ALL THE TIME, EVERY DAY, ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER! How many times have you gone through the house & although you say it much sweeter than this, pointed things out or corrected somebody & said, "Now didn't I tell you not to do it that

way?" or "Don't you know that's wrong?" or "Excuse me, why did you do that?" Leaders & shepherds have to do it all the time, or at least we should! Don't you? Do you ever correct anybody? Sometimes you do, I know you do, that's your job as a leader. Well, you don't expect them to totally go to pieces if you say one little thing to them, do you? If they did, you'd be upset at them! Well, if we as leaders can dole it out to everybody else, then we should sure as shootin' be able to take it, too, especially from one another in honesty & openness & frankness & appreciation, because everybody needs to be corrected if they're wrong!

18. WE DON'T CORRECT PEOPLE BECAUSE WE WANT TO HURT 'EM, we don't do it to be malicious. If someone makes a big mistake on a photocopying project, you don't get on their case & ask them why they did it & correct them just because you like to or because you're trying to be mean to them. You do it because you want to help, you want to train them, you want them to understand their mistakes & to do a better job. Isn't that why we correct people?

19. SO WHY DOES IT WORK ANY DIFFERENTLY ON A LEADERSHIP LEVEL BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE OR BETWEEN ALL OF US? I've told everyone in our house, "If I come to the kitchen or the kid's room & I do something wrong, you can tell me! I'm not going to fall to pieces, I'm not going to bite your head off & say, 'Who do you think you are to tell me something, buddy!'" I do a lot of things wrong! Because I'm oftentimes on a different schedule, I miss most of the daily Home announcements, for one thing, so I do a lot of things wrong because I don't know better sometimes! But I want to know & I want to do'm right, so I ask people. I said, "If you don't feel like you should say it, then write me a note, because I want to know!" And that's how we should all be, we should want to know when we're wrong or when we're doing things wrong or if we're in a hurried spirit or whatever, because it's not the right thing, & if we're that way we should be corrected.

20. THE END RESULT OF THIS SENSITIVITY IS THAT YOU LOSE YOUR USEFULNESS BECAUSE NOBODY CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING! We don't correct each other to hurt each other, it's not done because anyone is trying to be mean or show how bad you are, that's not the reason! It's because we love each other. Don't we all want to grow? Don't we all want to be closer to the Lord? Don't we want to do things the right way? Well, if we want to, then we should be willing enough to take it & to accept it when we're not.—And not only accept it from your leadership, but be willing to listen & take suggestions from

those you work with, & even those under you. I'm not saying everybody should go around rebuking all their elders, but especially at a leadership or equals level we should receive better from one another. No one should be so high & mighty that they can't take a little correction one from another!

21. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE THAT WAY, that you're not going to let those things bother you, & you have to start being willing to face the fact that you do have things wrong with you, you do make mistakes! All of us do & we can't be so unwilling to have our mistakes exposed & corrected! People know your faults & your failures & your areas of weakness anyway, so it doesn't do any good to hide it & to not want to have correction in them! You've just got to face the facts & face the situation, & just go on the attack against them!

22. PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT EVERYBODY WAS SO SENSITIVE THAT NOBODY COULD SAY ANYTHING TO EACH OTHER! They were afraid you were going to get upset, & you were afraid they were going to get upset! So nobody does anything because everybody's afraid everybody else is going to get upset! So what happens?—Nothing gets done!—Or none of the problems get solved, or none of the problems between you get solved because all you leaders are afraid to say anything to each other! That's a ridiculous situation when you look at it! When you step out & step back & look at the situation logically in the light of the truth, it's insane! It's absolutely ridiculous!

23. THE FOLKS AREN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL! Dad gets correction from the Lord, & Mama gets correction from Dad regularly, & she takes it! And we all get it from Mama! If we make a mistake in Dad's house, you sweetly hear about it!—Not because anybody's carrying a big stick & bashes you over the head or they're just waiting for you to make a mistake so they can kick your teeth in! They correct us in love because they love us & they want to train us! They want us to do things the right way. They want to find out why we did it the wrong way so they can help us to do it the right way next time! But if we were so sensitive that every time our shepherds just looked at us we all fell to pieces, what would happen? We might all be a bunch of delinquent children, because we'd certainly be discouraging correction because of our reaction to it.

24. SENSITIVITY IS REALLY THE DEVIL'S DEVICE! It's a trick of the Enemy to lock yourself in to being so sensitive that you can't accept that anything's wrong with you or that you need to change or that you did something wrong. It's really pride, that's

what it comes down to! It's something that you really need to pray about & get over! We're all sort of sensitive, but we all need to see that we don't have to be, we don't need to be & we shouldn't be!

25. THE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT IF YOU ARE SENSITIVE LIKE THAT, OTHERS SEE IT & THEY IN TURN THINK THAT THEY CAN BE SENSITIVE TOO! And then you've got this problem that nobody can say anything to anybody because everybody's so sensitive. Then before you can say anything to somebody, you've got to pad everything. Either you don't say it all, or you've got to say it in such a soft, roundabout way that it's a major big production to figure out how to say it! And then you don't know what the result's going to be, if the person's going to explode or go into the depths of despair or what! So then you've got a situation where nobody can talk to anybody, nobody can say anything & it's just the opposite of the way it's supposed to be!

26. IT'S LIKE THAT VERSE, "AM I NOW BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?" (Gal.4:16) Shouldn't we be able to tell each other the truth? Shouldn't we be able to point out problems & mistakes to each other? Shouldn't we be able to correct each other?—Yes! We should not only be able to, we should want it, & we should try to be open enough to accept those things. And you can be! It just depends on your attitude or frame of mind.

27. SOME PEOPLE ARE SENSITIVE BECAUSE THEY LIKE IT! "Oh, I like having this special little attention & sympathy that's generated!" But it's a waste of time & it also hurts other people. It's sort of a vicious cycle. For example, if I'm talking to you & you make an indication that something I said hurt you, then I feel like, "What's the matter? Did I do something to hurt her? I'm sorry!" Then you say, "Oh no no no, it's nothing, I don't want to tell you." And by the time we're finished talking I feel really bad that I hurt your feelings, when I honestly don't mean to. I'm sure sometimes I have hurt you, but I didn't mean to. But then I've worried about you & I felt like I've had to check later how you're doing.—And it shouldn't be like that!

28. IT'S A WAR, WE'RE AN ARMY! THERE'S NO TIME OR ROOM FOR THIS SORT OF THING! We have to be able to say, "Yes, Sir! Thank you, Sir! Amen, Sir!" There's no place for sensitivity because it takes so much time, something we don't have much of! It's just not spiritually healthy to be that way, because you don't grow!—Because nobody tells you anything! Or if they do tell you, you're so defensive & withdrawn & padded with sensitivity that you don't even get the

point!

29. WHEN WE CORRECT PEOPLE IT'S NOT THAT WE WANT TO HURT THEM, & WE SHOULDN'T LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, WE SHOULD LOOK AT IT AS AN IMPROVEMENT! Thank God we can be corrected, thank God we can be told our problems! Thank God when we do something wrong, that somebody is honest enough to tell us about it so that we don't do it again!

30. A LOT OF TIMES WE TEND TO THINK, "THE FOLKS ARE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS MISTAKE & THE PERSON THAT WILL BE PASSING IT ON TO THEM DOESN'T HAVE THE FACTS EXACTLY RIGHT & I DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK I'M THIS WAY!" Well, that's not important! The Folks aren't tricked into thinking something that's not so. They don't take just one little thing somebody said & base all their judgement on that! If somebody reports something about us that's not exactly right, we shouldn't be so sensitive to it that we can't receive the lesson in it for us!

31. (FAM: I'M OFTEN BRANDED AS BEING SENSITIVE NOW EVEN MANY TIMES WHEN I'M NOT!) Well, you're branded that way because you are that way so often! Even though this last time you weren't, we expect that you will be, because you have been so often in the past! If you'd never been that way or you seldom reacted that way, then of course nobody would even think that! But because you have had that problem & you have been that way, & you are that way so often, therefore, of course we think it! Why wouldn't we?

32. WELL, I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT EVERYBODY'S FEELINGS, I'M SURE I DID! I don't like to & I don't mean to, but we just have to tell you these things! We could let this go on forever, but in the long run it'd be a lot worse! I'll tell you one thing, the reason some of these returning Prodigals have become good upstanding members is because we've had the rules enforced! The reason they've come from being backslidden, drugged-out musicians & artists to very good hard workers, is because their shepherds transcended all their sensitivity & they just enforced the rules, loved them & didn't let those people get away with things! Maybe they're still a little sensitive, but they've toed the line & they do good!

33. THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE SENSITIVE! You're not the only one! But we've got to start somewhere & you're it! It's time to start getting people over the hump & not just accepting each others' problems. We can't just say, "Well, that's just the way she is." The reason people are sensitive is because we didn't do anything about it! But they don't have to be that way & we shouldn't accept it!