

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

GODLY SORROW

2 CORINTHIANS 7

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:10

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¹⁰ For **godly sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Introduction:

There are few things in life more painful than broken relationships.

Shattered marriages, wayward children, and disrupted friendships produce suffering and hurt, and deep sorrow.

When those broken relationships involve fellow believers, the pain is even more severe.

Watching believers suffer the consequences of their sinful conduct compounds the grief from the breaking of the relationship.

Paul nursed a broken heart over these believers he loved and served. He was under severe pressure and

afflictions, suffering to the point that he despaired even life.

2 Corinthians 1:8

⁸ For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Paul had written a stern letter to these believers soon after his painful visit with them.

In this letter he had exhorted them to discipline their members who persisted in error –specifically, the one who had publically opposed Paul’s authority.

Note:

2 Corinthians 2:1-4

¹ But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. ² For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me? ³ And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

2 Corinthians 7:8

⁸ For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

2 Corinthians 13:1-4

¹ This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. ² I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare: ³ Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you. ⁴ For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

At first Paul was sorry that he had sent them the letter. He had written it with a great amount of anguish.

2 Corinthians 2:4

⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

He knew that his tone and message was painful to the Corinthian believers.

But Titus's report that they were still looking forward to his visit and he also reaffirmed their love and loyalty caused Paul to change his mind.

The letter had produced its intended desire.

Although harsh, it had produced a change of heart in the Corinthians, the repentance God desired.

Paul stated that, "I know you were not happy and were sorry, but because of your sorrow led you to repentance.

There should be no regret with this type of sorrow.

Note again:

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

¹⁰ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. ¹¹ For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

I want us to consider the characteristics of sorrow.

We will consider two examples of these two type of sorrow.

We will also look at the details of Godly Sorrow.

Note:

1. DIFFERENCE

Not all sorrow is the same.

Note two types of sorrow

A. Worldly Sorrow

Many people are sorry only for the affects or results of the sin.

This is the sorrow is the sorrow of the world.

This sorrow results in death.

Note the second type of sorrow:

B. Godly Sorrow

This sorrow is conviction and grief that leads to a change in the behavior and attitudes of a person.

This confirmed by the actions and deeds of the individual.

God commends this kind of sorrow in the second Beatitude: "Blessed are they that mourn"; that is, they mourn over their sins before God.

Such grief is "blessed" because it drives us to God and to repentance.

Sorrow is not enough for a changed life. It has no healing benefit by itself. We are to let the grief over our sins motivate us, and drive us to God.

We have considered the Difference in Sorrow; note secondly:

2. DEMONSTRATION

We will consider tow example that demonstrated these two different sorrows.

We will consider Peter and Judas.

Both handled the events surrounding the Lord's death in a wrong way.

Judas brazenly betrayed the Lord with a kiss.

Mark 14:43-46

⁴³ And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely.

⁴⁵ And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

⁴⁶ And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

Peter denied he know the Lord three different times.

John 18:15-27

¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. ¹⁶ But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. ¹⁷ Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. ¹⁸ And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. ¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret

have I said nothing. ²¹ Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. ²² And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? ²³ Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me? ²⁴ Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? ²⁷ Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Both were overcome with grief over their actions.

Matthew 26:75

⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:3

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Although Peter was distraught, he had the humility and the courage to admit his failure, changed his behavior, and rededicated his life to the Lord.

John 21:15-19

¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. ¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. ¹⁹ This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

In contrast, Judas let his remorse eat as soul.

Eventually overcome by guilt, he committed suicide.

Judas wasn't able to learn from his sin and repent.

He didn't submit his sins to Christ and plead to be forgiven.

He was too proud to cry out to the Lord for forgiveness, so his pride and stubbornness led to death.

Note lastly the:

3. Details

What are the details of Godly Sorrow?

Note the steps of Godly sorrow.

There must be:

A. An Acknowledgement

We must acknowledge that we have sinned and are a sinner.

There also must be:

B. An Agreement

We must agree with God that we indeed are a sinner and that we need a Saviour.

We must agree that we cannot save our self.

We must agree that our righteousness is filthy rags.

There also must be:

C. An Acceptance

We must accept the payment the Christ paid for salvation.

Close:

Worldly sorrow is only sorrow because of the consequences.

Godly sorrow is sorrow because we have offended God.