

Godly sorrow or Worldly sorrow

2Corinthians 7:8-16

A great change has come into the Corinthian church—they've gone from carnality to a revival of sorts. Redpath ***No Christian is ever carnal when he begins his Christian life, but he can sink into carnality***'. Which was the case in the church in Corinth.

In 1Corinthians Paul wrote of strife, division, envy...*'are you not carnal'*, immorality, some puffed up, defraud your brother **but now** Whatever they sank down into they're climbing out of by Gods grace--**16 I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.**

So what happened? After first letter Paul made a hurried visit to Corinth to deal w/ issues, but seemed to make things worse **2Cor 2:1 But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. KJ So I decided that I would not bring you grief with another painful visit. NLT.** So he sent a letter by Titus--stern & severe rebuke-confrontation.

He left for Troas concerned he over did it, too harsh & had no rest waiting for Titus to come and give report. He didn't come so Paul went on to Macedonia & finally Titus came w/ word of how the letter was received. Instead of hostility & resentment it produced repentance. Real repentance is not momentary sorrow then back to what you were doing but a sorrow that brings a changed life, a change of heart.

Redpath ***A gospel that talks much about faith & little about repentance will be free from offence and will certainly be much easier to preach but it will be deprived of all heavenly power'.....'For a preacher to say peace, peace when there is no peace is to make himself an ally of unrighteousness and to make himself guilty of allowing indulgence in sin'***.

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False teachers were accusing Paul of abuse by an overbearing attitude, intense style, ruining lives by his severe methods '*turn over to Satan*'. Money fraud--collecting for poor saints in Jerusalem & spending on himself. In Psychology it's called projection—your sin on others

8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

In our snowflake culture--don't make me feel bad or I run to my safe zone. You are bad if you fault my lifestyle and make me feel bad-it's called conviction of sin & is God's spiritual thermometer of our conscience.

Paul's regret turns to rejoicing. We can sometimes be passionate & overbearing in our zeal to do right & have others do right. **Especially our kids**. Afterwards our minds rehearse what we said & wonder if our words were too strong & the tone of our voice too harsh. We beat ourselves up thinking that we might have done more harm than good. This was Paul's dilemma

But Paul's letter brought good fruit—their sorrow brought them to repentance which was Paul aim & intent which is always God's will. **Sorrow** is a feeling **repentance** is an action

Not suffer loss—loss of rewards, loss of fellowship, family, HS, leaven in church—closeness to Christ.

10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Paul contrasts two sorrows—Godly & worldly

Spurgeon *People seem to jump into faith very quickly nowadays. I do not disapprove of that happy leap; but still, I hope my old friend repentance is not dead. I am desperately in love with repentance; it seems to me to be the twin-sister to faith.*

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Godly sorrow starts in the mind but will always end up in the heart if it's God produce sorrow leading to repentance. Change of direction, changed life. *Godly sorrow is not measured by feelings or tears but only by what it produces.* Sorrow of the world leads to death, separation & produces bitterness, anger & resentment because it hates getting caught & being accountable—A lifestyle of hypocrisy 'speaking thru a false face'

Judas Matt 27:3-5 was sorry for the outcome of his betrayal of Jesus. He brought back money *'I've betrayed innocent blood'* & didn't want to face the consequence & repent so his solution was suicide-hanged himself.

In 7 year tribulation, as God pours out His wrath, instead of repenting **Rev 6: 15** *And the kings of the earth & the great men & the commanders & the rich & the strong & every slave & free man, hid themselves in the caves & among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains & to the rocks, "Fall on us & hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, & from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; & who is able to stand?"*

Peter Matt 26:75 sinned when he denied the Lord-he wept bitterly-came back-was used-martyred for his faith. Repentance is more seen than spoken.

Many are sorry when they get caught but go out & do it again. World's sorrow is self-pity **King Saul- Deluded** 1Sam 15:13- *'Blessed...I carried out commands' Make excuses I forced myself Blame game 'they brought...the people spared...Selfish* 1Sam 22:88 *'none of you are sorry for me' Jealous* 1Sam 24:16 *"Is this your voice, my son David?" 26:17 "Is this your voice, my son David?" Final analysis* 1Sam 15:26 *you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.*

John Baptist Matt 3:2 *Repent for the K of G is at hand'; Jesus* Matt 4:17 *Repent for the K of H is at hand. Peter* Acts 2:38 *Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

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11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

The effects of Godly sorrow--

Earnestness—Quick to repent, speed of turning & stay turned, a controlling desire; *Vindication*—Speak in defense--not guilty--free; *Indignation*—Grieved w/ ourselves, offended at our selfishness, angry at our carnality, indignant that I'm not like Jesus *I am glad that the bible allows me to get mad, mad w/ the devil to think that he had the audacity to pull me down & make me do that! What indignation, what fury at sin & all the agencies of Satan. Redpath* *Fear*—panic could do all over again, fear of sin, alarm at weakness of my flesh. *Longing*—great desire for righteousness, affection for God's will, a yearning to not sin. *Zeal*—fervent in pursuit of righteousness--to boil over in hatred of sin. *Avenging* of wrong—getting even w/ sin--repentance avenges my wrong & makes right thru forgiveness. Repentance gives legal protection. *Innocent*—free from defilement—set apart, holy, w/o guilty--free

Humility attached to sorrow leads to repentance—*humility never justifies itself.*

12 So although I wrote to you it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.

My primary concern in writing was not for the sake of the sinner or the one he was sinning w/ but my concern was for you, and how you were going to respond to my exhortation. Would you do what was right in the sight of God or not? That was a big tension on my part and Titus. You proved by your earnestness, your diligence to respond to my correction--quick to obey & do what's right in the sight of God and before us.

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13 For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. 14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth. 15 And his affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. 16 I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.

Because you did what was right we are comforted, relieved to know you listened and obeyed. Come along side to help *parakaleo*

Not only that but the joy you brought to Titus when he heard the good report, you refreshed his spirit, giving him rest & ease to know your fellowship is everything Paul was bragging about. Always tense, heaviness not knowing how things will turn out. But the spiritual temperature in the church was warm and inviting—Titus was refreshed. Paul's *boast*-root neck 'to hold the head up high' was not in vain.