

Godly Sorrow and Biblical Repentance

2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-11

Biblical Repentance Begins with Godly Sorrow

Two Kinds of Sorrow

- Worldly sorrow...produces death – 2 Cor. 7:10
 - It is genuine sorrow producing genuine tears.
 - It comes from anguish of losing **worldly** things—reputation, power, money, family, being able to do what one wants, etc.
 - It comes from the loss of what brings security, comfort, or pleasure, whether good or bad.
- This sorrow leads to death because it is motivated by the same kind of heart that desired the sin in the first place.

Two Kinds of Sorrow

- Godly sorrow...produces repentance leading to salvation – 2 Cor. 7:10
- Looks the same but differs in what is in the heart and its results--repentance – 7:9-10
- Godly sorrow...
 - May feel the pain of worldly loss, but that is not its focus.
 - Is God-focused and pained over loss of relationship with Him, over offending/grieving Him by transgressing His Holy law.
- Only godly sorrow leads to repentance because it marks a change in a self-centered heart to one that seeks God's will.
- These distinction have everything to do with freedom from sin!

Biblical Marks of Godly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:11

Godly Sorrow...

- Produces diligence, earnestness
 - Worldly sorrow cringes at the pain of sin, responds in prayer, and determines to fight—*for a while* – Mt. 13:22
 - Godly sorrow is diligent, earnest, lasting in its remorse for sin and commitment to fight, long after worldly sorrow gives up.
 - Peter summed it up – 2 Pet. 1:5-9
- Produces eagerness to clear, or vindicate, oneself
 - Worldly sorrow seeks to justify and minimize the crime.
 - Godly sorrow is eager to clear oneself of all charges, willingly pursuing godly ways to eradicate the sin from their life.
 - Godly sorrow chooses accountability and responsibility – 1 Jn. 1:8-9; Jas. 5:16

Godly Sorrow...

- Causes indignation, anger
 - Why sorrow leads to anger determines its value
 - Worldly sorrow leads to anger over the shame of being caught and the loss of worldly things
 - Godly sorrow produces anger at Satan and sin, at breaking God's heart, at one's willingness to walk away from freedom to bondage – Psa. 51:4; Jn. 8:34-36
- Leads to fear, alarm, fright
 - Worldly sorrow fears being found out and worldly judgments and reprisals
 - Godly sorrow fears GOD—His anger, disappointment, loss of His grace, facing His wrath

Godly Sorrow...

- Produces vehement desire, longing
 - For what? For restoration—not of life as we might want it, but life as God wants it
 - Godly sorrow produces longing for restoration with God, of again knowing His deep love and grace that sets us free! – Psa. 32:1-5
- Produces zeal, fervor
 - Zeal in one's godly response to sin
 - Godly sorrow is zealous to see the truth of one's transgression against God acknowledged, and God's justice and holiness upheld – Heb. 10:32-34