

REDEEMER

# Power *in* weakness

2 CORINTHIANS

Our weakness often produces *grief*.




## 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ...


I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy. For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ...

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ...


For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. ...




For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment!  
...



At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ...



Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. ...



And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

- 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 ESV



## **Godly grief**

1. Godly grief vs worldly grief
2. What godly grief produces
3. How we can have godly grief that leads to life



## **Godly grief**

1. **Godly grief vs worldly grief**

Verse 10: For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Takeaways:

1) *With godly grief, there is sorrow over sin; whereas with worldly grief, there is sorrow over getting caught, looking bad, or painful circumstances.*

Psalm 51: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!



Heidelberg Catechism 89: [Godly grief]...is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it."

What difference does this make?

Takeaways:

2 ) *Godly grief is not repentance, but it leads to repentance.*

Verse 9: *As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting.*

Verse 10: *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret...*

From Rick Thomas:

a. Repentance is not worldly sorrow or pouting, which is more concerned about the consequences of your actions than the possibilities of change.

b. Repentance is not penance or some form of self-atonement where you have to pay for what you did.

c. Repentance is not merely a confession where the person says he is sorry but does not seek forgiveness. Saying "I sinned" is good but doesn't go far enough.

d. Repentance is not selfish motivation with the intent of getting some reward because of the confession.

e. Repentance is not "damage control" to save face or not suffer too many losses. The repentant man does not care about his failures. (See Luke 15:17-21.)

Kevin Deyoung: *"There is an eternal difference between regret and repentance. Regret feels bad about past sins. Repentance turns away from past sins. Most of us are content with regret. We just want to feel bad for awhile, have a good cry, enjoy the cathartic experience, bewail our sin and how selfish/stupid/sorry we are. ...*

*But we don't really want to change. We don't really want to live different than we have been. Godly grief produces true repentance, which leads to salvation. Instead of obsessing over regrets and feeling bad due to the opinions of others, godly grief mourns for sin, turns from sin, and finds forgiveness for sin in Christ."*

## Takeaways:

3) Worldly grief is ME focused.

## Characteristics of worldly grief:

- **Self pity:** I can't believe I did this.
- **Personal embarrassment:** What are others going to think about me now?
- **Shameful regret:** I will never be able to forget what I have done.
- **Unbelieving guilt:** I can't forgive myself.



*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

## Godly grief

1. Godly grief vs worldly grief
2. What godly grief produces

Verses 10-11: For godly grief produces a **repentance** that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what **earnestness** this godly grief has produced in you, but also what **eagerness** to clear yourselves, what **indignation**, what **fear**, what **longing**, what **zeal**, what **punishment!**

Godly grief to Repentance to **Action:**

*Making amends from a changed heart*

*Bearing fruits of Repentance (Luke 3:8)*

Kevin Deyoung: "Here's one way to distinguish between worldly grief and godly grief: one mobilizes you into action and the other immobilizes you. Godly grief is a fruitful and effective emotion. We are not meant to wallow in this grief. ..."

*It is supposed to spur us to action, to change, to make right our wrongs, to be zealous for good works, to run from sin and start walking in the opposite direction. But worldly grief makes you idle and stagnant. You don't change. You don't grow. You don't fight against the deeds of the flesh. ...*

*Instead you ruminate on your mistakes and obsess about what people's opinions and ponder what might have been. If you feel sorry for your sin you will be moved to action not to wallow in it week after week, year after year. Do you want to feel bad or do you want to change?"*

## **Godly grief**

1. Godly grief vs worldly grief
2. What godly grief produces
- 3. How we can have godly grief that leads to life**

Psalm 34:18: The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

