

"The Heart of an Apostle" - Part 12

2 Corinthians 7:2-16



"Godly Sorrow vs. Worldly Sorrow"

In this morning's passage, Paul describes for us what true godly sorrow looks like, and how we can differentiate it from worldly sorrow.

Big Idea: "if the sorrow is truly godly, it will result in the change of the sorrowful"

Change in Heart (7:2-4)

"Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds." (2 Cor 7:2-4 NIV)

- There is no greater joy as a pastor than to pour your love into your flock and have them love you in return.

Change in Comfort (7:5-9)

"For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ..." (2 Cor 7:5-9 NIV)

- The two-headed enemy of ministry is those who oppose us from the outside, and those feelings of fear and incompetence that plague us within.
- Paul pressed on by means of the God of all comfort.
- God uses us to encourage and comfort others so that we become comfort conductors.

Change in Direction (7:10-13a)

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death..." (2 Cor 7:10-13a NIV)

- True godly sorrow will always bring about repentance.
- Repentance (*metanoia*) = "to perceive after".
- In the final analysis,
 - Godly sorrow brings change; worldly sorrow avoids change.
 - Godly sorrow sees sin as a crime against God; worldly sorrow seeks to excuse sin and dodge its consequences.
 - Godly sorrow is God-focused; worldly sorrow is self-focused.

Change in Others (7:13b-16)

"In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you..." (2 Cor 7:13b-16 NIV)

- True godly sorrow brings about not only a change in you, but also those who know you.

So What?

Godly sorrow must produce change. How so?

1. By the change in our hearts towards the people of God.
2. By the change in our ability to comfort others with the comfort we have received from God.
3. By the change in direction regarding our relationship to sin and how it is viewed by our Holy God.
4. By the change we see in others as a result of what God is doing in and through us.

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