

Godly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Godly Sorrow

I. Paul's Letter

I. Paul's Letter

- 1 Corinthians:
 - 1, 3: condemned divisions, called them 'carnal' and 'babes'
 - 4: some accused of being 'puffed up', threatened the rod
 - 5: man with his father's wife called out as worse than Gentiles
 - 5: entire congregation held accountable for unwillingness to address the sin in their number
 - 6: called out for bringing brethren to court, accused of doing wrong and cheating each other
 - 9: needed to defend himself against accusations targeting his work and apostleship
 - 11: divisions condemned again, treating Lord's Supper as a common meal and placing some above others
 - 12-14: needed teaching on spiritual gifts and maintaining order in the assembly
 - 15: some claimed there would be no resurrection of the dead

I. Paul's Letter

- 2 Corinthians 2:1-4

- ¹ But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. ² For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? ³ And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, 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 to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

- Paul delayed his visit to not compound misery

- Hoping that his letter would bring them to repentance so that a visit could be joyful, not require further discipline

I. Paul's Letter

- 2 Corinthians 7:5-7

- ⁵ For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. ⁶ Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

- Titus returns to Paul with news of their repentance

I. Paul's Letter

- 2 Corinthians 7:8-9

- ⁸ For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

- Paul's letter grieved the Corinthians, achieved its goal

- Paul doesn't regret disciplining the Corinthians
 - Grieved over its necessity, and how it would be received
 - Tough letters are hard to write, harder to send
 - How many letters have the elders mailed and felt similarly about?

I. Paul's Letter

- 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
 - ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
- Our sorrow can be worldly or godly
 - Paul's focus is on responses to sin
 - As sinful beings, we *will* have reasons to grieve and be sorrowful over our actions
 - What we *do* when confronted by that sorrow is key!

Godly Sorrow

I. Paul's Letter

II. Worldly Sorrow

II. Worldly Sorrow

- Exodus 7 – Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh
 - God demanded Pharaoh let the Hebrews go free
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused
 - God began a series of plagues against Egypt
- Exodus 8
 - ⁵ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’” . . .
 - ⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.” . . .
 - ¹² Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. ¹³ So the Lord did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. ¹⁴ They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. ¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

II. Worldly Sorrow

- Pharaoh's 'Repentance'

- Frogs: Exodus 8:8, 15
- Flies: Exodus 8:28, 32
- Hail: Exodus 9:27-28, 34

- ²⁷ And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. ²⁸ Entreat the Lord, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."
- ³⁴ And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

- Sorrow over consequences, not sin

- Pharaoh repented only when punished
- Pharaoh's repentance only lasted as long as the punishment

II. Worldly Sorrow

- Judas Iscariot

- Numbered as one of the twelve apostles

- Matthew 10:1-4

- ¹ And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

- Travels with Jesus, sees His miracles, even performs them

- Yet, in the last week of Jesus's life, he sins and betrays Him.

- Matthew 26:14-16

- ¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

II. Worldly Sorrow

- “the sorrow of the world produces death”
 - Matthew 27:3-5
 - ³ Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.
 - Judas came to his senses and regretted his betrayal
 - Went to the priests to try and ‘undo’ his sin
 - If he gives the money back, it’s like it never happened..?
 - Flawed reasoning, focus is on the past
 - We can’t undo what we’ve done!
 - Judas’s sorrow drove him to hate himself
 - Judas *repented*, but not to God!
 - He didn’t trust God to forgive him, and his guilt drove him to suicide

Godly Sorrow

- I. Paul's Letter
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- III. Godly Sorrow**

III. Godly Sorrow

- David and Uriah's wife

- 2 Samuel 11:2-5

- ² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

- Begins a spiral of sin that ends with Uriah dead due to David's scheme

- 2 Samuel 11:26-27

- ²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

III. Godly Sorrow

- Nathan confronts David

- 2 Samuel 12:1-6

- ¹ Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³ But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”
- ⁵ So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶ And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

III. Godly Sorrow

- Nathan confronts David

- 2 Samuel 12:7-9, 13a

- ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹ Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.’” . . .

- ¹³ So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” . . .

- Psalm 51:14-17

- ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

III. Godly Sorrow

- David's repentance
 - David recognizes that he has sinned against God
 - Desires to *change and return to God*
- Proper sorrow over sin, not consequences
 - Unlike Pharaoh, David's repentance was heartfelt
 - David's repentance continued *despite* continued punishment
 - 2 Samuel 11:14-15
 - ¹⁴ "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." ¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.
 - Vs. 18 confirms that the child dies
 - Unlike Pharaoh, who only professed obedience until God's punishment ended, David recognized that God's punishment was deserved and continued to serve Him.

III. Godly Sorrow

- Simon Peter
 - Numbered as one of the twelve apostles
 - Travels with Jesus, sees His miracles, even performs them
 - Matthew 16:13-17
 - ¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
 - ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 - ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

III. Godly Sorrow

- Simon Peter

- Yet, in the last week of Jesus's life, he sins and betrays Him.

- Matthew 26:31-35

- ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³² But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."
- ³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

III. Godly Sorrow

- Simon Peter

- Luke 22:54-62

- ⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." ⁵⁷ But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."
 - ⁵⁸ And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"
 - ⁵⁹ Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.
 - ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

III. Godly Sorrow

- “godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation”
 - Peter forsook Christ, just as much a betrayal as Judas’s
 - Peter came to his senses and regretted his betrayal
 - Peter is next mentioned with the disciples, learning of the disappearance of Jesus’s body with the others
 - The ‘eleven’ repeatedly mentioned in the post-resurrection passages of the Gospels – Peter, unlike Judas, came back to the others

III. Godly Sorrow

- “godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation”
 - Peter forsook Christ, just as much a betrayal as Judas’s
 - Peter came to his senses and regretted his betrayal
 - John 21:15-17
 - ¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”
 - ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”
 - ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”
 - Peter’s repentance and love for God drives him to serve!

Godly Sorrow

- I. Paul's Letter
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- IV. Godly Results**

IV. Godly Results

- Sorrow over sin always leads *somewhere*
 - Judas's worldly sorrow led to his death
 - Peter's godly sorrow led to his service
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
 - ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
 - Paul praises the Corinthians for the *actions* produced by their godly sorrow
 - It drove them to serve God more *diligently*
 - It pushed them to be *indignant* towards sin
 - It reignited their *zeal* to pursue God and His righteousness
 - Their actions confirmed the results of their sorrow

IV. Godly Results

- Godly sorrow produces godly *results*
 - The Corinthians could have:
 - Rejected Paul's letter entirely and continued in their sins
 - Argued with Paul over what was right and wrong
 - Despaired and given up on trying to serve God
 - Instead, they devoted themselves to *serving* and *growing*
 - Philippians 3:12-14
 - ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - Paul's godly sorrow led him to look forward, not dwell on his past sins and failings
 - We must not become spiritually 'stagnant' because of our past