

Godly Sorrow
2 Corinthians 7:1-16

“Happy is that man who has had enough of the smart of sin to make it sour and bitter to him all the rest of his days; so that now, with changed heart, and renewed spirit, he perseveres in the ways of God, never thinking of going back, but resolved ‘through floods of flames’ to force his way to heaven, to be, by diving grace, master over every sin that assails him.” (Spurgeon)

- I. The need for repentance becomes evident when self and its sinful desires become more important to us than our relationship with Jesus, family, friends and the church. Anything that keeps us from perfecting holiness out of reverence for God, and anything that keeps us from purifying ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit is sin and needs to be repented of.

2 Cor. 7:1

Matt. 11:29-30

2 Cor. 6:14-16a

1 Cor. 3:1-3

1 Cor. 4:18-19

Rom. 2:4

1 Cor. 6:8

Gal. 5:15

μετάνοια metanoia *a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done. especially the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds. Strong’s*

Eph. 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Romans 2:4 *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

- II. The nature of true heartfelt repentance is having a godly sorrow that trusts in the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness. It involves having a sincere heartfelt brokenness over the damage our sin has caused. It is truly grieving over the harm that sin has done to self and to others, especially to Jesus Christ and his church. It is the type of sorrow that humbles us and puts us on our knees before him crying out for forgiveness and change.

2 Cor. 7:2-10

1 Jn. 1:7-10

1 Jn. 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- III. The fruit of true heartfelt repentance is seen in a renewed passion for righteousness. It is having a strong determination to no longer conform to the pattern of this world, to be transformed by the renewing of the mind, to be made new in the attitude of the mind, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Anything short of that brings into question whether repentance was a sincere act of the heart, or just merely verbal assent.

2 Cor. 7:11-16

Jer. 17:9

Prov. 4:23

Rom. 12:1-2

Eph. 4:23-24

Gal. 5:24-25 *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*