

Student Ministries Summer Camp 2015, Breakout Session #3
Repentance: Practicing Sorrow

"A woman may as well expect to have a child without pangs as one can have repentance without sorrow...he that can repent without sorrowing, suspect his repentance."

– Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance*

"Repentance requires that I practice godly sorrow."

I. 2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-11

A. The Context

- The Corinthian church had sinned against God, Paul, and one another (I Cor. 1:11; 3:3; 5:1-8; 6:1, 4-8; 11:17-22; II Cor. 12:11-18)
- Paul wrote to them, instructing them on how to forsake these sins and honor God (I Cor. 1:10, 26-30; 4:1; 5:2; 6:7; 7:1-2; 8:9, 13; 10:7-14; 11:28, 33-34)
- In II Corinthians 7:8-13, Paul explains why he is comforted by Titus's report of the way that the Corinthians church repented after reading Paul's letter

B. Evidence and Examples of Godly Sorrow

1. *Earnestness* - to give purposeful and sincere attention to something (II Kgs. 23:1-20; Prov. 14:16)
2. *Eagerness to clear yourselves* - being very desirous to not be associated with or characterized by a sin (Acts 19:17-19)
3. *Indignation* - to be rightly angry about one's own sin and the sin of others for the right reasons (Ex. 32:19-20)
4. *Fear* - a reverence and esteem for God that heightens one's awareness of and hatred for sin (Ps. 51:4; II Cor. 7:1)
5. *Longing* - an intense desire to feel and do what is right (Ps. 119:10, 16, 17, 20)
6. *Zeal* - a jealous concern that causes someone to defend God's reputation, name, and glory (Num. 25:5-13; Jn. 2:15-17)
7. *Punishment* - humbly receiving the just consequences of sin (Ezra 9:15-10:5)

II. PRACTICE EXERCISE

INSTRUCTIONS: Reread II Corinthians 7:9-11. Next, identify a specific sin and write it on the line titled *Primary Sin*. Underneath the *Primary Sin*, explain how you might demonstrate each of the characteristics of godly sorrow in order to repent well of that specific sin.

Primary Sin #1: _____

Earnestness –

Eagerness –

Indignation –

Fear –

Longing –

Zeal –

Punishment –

Primary Sin #2: _____

Earnestness –

Eagerness –

Indignation –

Fear –

Longing –

Zeal –

Punishment –

Primary Sin #4: _____

Earnestness –

Eagerness –

Indignation –

Fear –

Longing –

Zeal –

Punishment –

Primary Sin #3: _____

Earnestness –

Eagerness –

Indignation –

Fear –

Longing –

Zeal –

Punishment –

Primary Sin #5: _____

Earnestness –

Eagerness –

Indignation –

Fear –

Longing –

Zeal –

Punishment –

GLOSSARY

1. Adoption - God's reception of undeserving sinners as His very own children (Ps. 27:10; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5)
2. Conversion - the radical change that occurs when someone turns to God at salvation (Acts 15:3; I Thess. 1:9-10)
3. Fear of God - a deep reverence and awe of God, resulting from intimate acquaintance with Him (Pro. 8:13; 9:10)
4. Forgiveness - the complete pardon of a debt owed or wrong done
5. Glorification - the state in which believers are completely and finally conformed to Christ's likeness (Job 19:25-27; I Cor. 15; I Jn. 3:2)
6. Grace - the unearned kindness of God that gives sinners what they do not deserve (Rom. 3:22b-25; Eph. 2:8-9)
7. Holy - to be set apart (also synonymous with *sanctified*; Heb. 2:11; 3:1)
8. Humility - the quality of being free from arrogance and pride and having an accurate estimate of one's worth (Phil. 2:2-8)
9. Indignation - righteous anger (Job 32:2-3; Ps. 7:11)
10. Justification - declared righteous by God (Ps. 19:12; Rom. 5:1)
11. Malice - vicious intention; desire to hurt someone (Rom. 1:29; Titus 3:3)
12. Meekness - the moral quality of humility and gentleness, usually exhibited during suffering or difficulty (Matt. 5:5; 11:29)
13. Mercy - pity that typically causes one to withhold punishment (Matt. 5:7; 9:13; Titus 3:4-5)
14. Positional Realities - unchangeable, objective realities, secured by God for the believer at conversion
15. Repentance - forsaking sin and turning toward God (Prov. 28:13; II Cor. 7:9-11; I Jn. 1:8-9)
16. Saint - one who is set apart by God, for God (Rom. 1:7)
17. Sanctification - the process of being made holy, more like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 2:12-13)
18. Sin - the breaking of God's law (I John 3:4)
19. Sorrow - either worldly or godly sadness in response to sin (II Cor. 7:9-11)
20. Strengths - the new abilities of the new, converted man that please God
21. Weaknesses - the lingering, old attitudes and actions that believers are still prone to commit
22. Wisdom - right thinking which produces right living out of a fear of God (Pro. 1:7; Jas. 3:13-18)

Appendix A: Examples of Repentance

INSTRUCTIONS: The following passages give examples of repentance from Scripture. Try to identify some of the evidences of repentance from II Corinthians 7:11 that are taking place in these passages.

1. Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
2. Jonah 3:4-10 - Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who know? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."
3. Acts 19:17-19 - And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jew and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.
4. Matthew 5:27-30 - You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
5. Luke 19:8 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."