

# “GODLY SORROW”

**Text:** II Corinthians 7:1-11

**Subject:** “How Godly Sorrow Leads To Repentance That Never Leaves You With Regret.”

## II Corinthians 3:18

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

### The Power of the Gospel “To Change the Human Heart” (Or)

**What is the one mandatory ingredient for change?**

**Question:** What’s the “big deal” about this message?

**Answer:** The big deal is it is possible to be deceived by a counterfeit grace!

**Question:** What is counterfeit grace?

**Answer:** It is that teaching that promotes one thought (what is it?)

#### (It says)

“Since you didn’t do anything to earn your salvation, you can’t do anything to lose it.”

#### (Or it says)

“Calling believers to live a holy life in a godly manner with a pure heart is legalism.”

- It resists the doctrine of repentance.
- It rebukes the very thought of repentance.
- It withdraws from the preaching of repentance.
- It doesn’t appreciate one who addresses repentance.

#### (Why?)

1. Because it doesn’t understand that repentance is a gift from God that leads us into life and spiritual growth.
2. Because satan is a deceiver and wants to blind us to the most basic of all liberating truths.

#### (Paul warned us three times)

- To the Corinthians – *“Be not deceived.”* (I Corinthians 6:9)
- To the Galatians – *“I warn you as I did before.”* (Galatians 5:21)
- To the Ephesians – *“Let no man deceive you with empty words.”* (Ephesians 5:6)

#### (Deceive from what?)

- That preaching and teaching of a non-biblical counterfeit grace that deals only with the consequences of sin, but not the root of sin.

#### (Jude warned us in v. 4)

*“For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men who **change the grace of our God** into a license for immorality.”*

**Question:** Is calling the believer to live in a godly manner really legalism?

**Question:** Is calling the believer to be pure in heart (so they will see God) legalism?

**Question:** Isn't it God's grace that leads us to repentance and power over sin?

**(Of course it is: listen to Titus 2:11, 12)**

*“For **the grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”*

**Question:** Why must I know the genuine Gospel that has power to change my heart?

**Question:** Because sanctification (or Christ likeness) and joy go hand in hand.

**(All read Psalm 45:7)**

*“Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness; therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”*

**(What's it mean? Two things)**

1. Godly living and Holy Joy go hand in hand.
2. We will have God's anointing and God's authority to the extent that we hate what God hates and love what God loves.

**Let's be serious with God**

**Ask:** What is biblical, spiritual, genuine repentance?

**Ask:** Why is it a gift of God and a glorious experience?

**Ask:** What's the difference between remorse and repentance?

**Ask:** And, what difference will it make in my life today?

**(II Corinthians 7 has a remarkable setting)**

- Paul the apostle founded the church in Corinth.
- He ministered there for a year and a half (Acts 18:1-18)
- After his departure, some problems arose.
- He sent Timothy to deal with them and wrote I Corinthians.
- Matters grew worse and Paul had to make a painful visit. (II Corinthians 2:1)
- There was still no resolve, so Paul wrote a severe letter that was delivered by Titus.
- After much distress, Paul met Titus and heard the good news (problems solved.)

**(Paul then wrote the letter of II Corinthians)**

**(Why?)**

1. To encourage the church to forgive the member causing all the trouble.
2. To encourage the church to give to the needs of the saints in Judea.
3. To explain his authority as an apostle of the Lord.

**(And in the midst of II Corinthians)**

**Paul unveils the great revival that took place in Corinth**

- How the believers repented and restored those wayward,
- How God sent His spirit upon the church,

- How the transformation and lasting change (of revival) was initiated through genuine repentance.

*“For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented (or regretted) of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (v. 10)*

### **Question #1: What Is Godly Sorrow?**

- In v. 8, Paul tells how he didn’t enjoy the confrontation.
- He had proclaimed the truth and the truth went to work.
- The result was that many believers (who had been carnal) were convicted.
- In v. 9, Paul rejoices; not that the church felt guilty and sorrowful, but that their sorrow led to genuine repentance.
- In v. 10, Paul speaks of two kinds of sorrow:
  1. “Sorrow of the world” (that produces death).
  2. “Godly sorrow” (that produces life).

#### **(What’s the difference?)**

- **“The Sorrow of the World” In v. 10 is:**
  - #1. That sorrow a person feels when they get caught.
  - #2. That sorrow a person feels when they are guilty.
  - #3. That sorrow a person feels when they are disgraced or ashamed.

#### **(Paul said in v. 10 this sorrow “worketh death”) In other words**

- It’s only concern is sadness over being found out.
- It’s only sorrow is the consequences being suffered.

#### **(It produces death)**

- Because this sorrow results in remorse, regret, depression and defeat alone.
- It leads to resentment, rebellion and bitterness.
- It doesn’t lead to anything or anyone higher than my own self preoccupation.
- It leaves me unchanged, still bound by habits of sin and void of a clear conscience.

#### **(On the other hand)**

- **What is “Godly Sorrow” in v. 10?**
  1. Godly sorrow is that sorrow in the heart because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
  2. It is sorrow that comes from agreeing with God about my sin.
  3. It is sorrow because I know that my sin offended God.
  4. It is pain within because of some action or attitude that does not please the Lord.

#### **(This sorrow produces life)**

- The sorrow of the world is only sad because of the consequences of sin. But Godly sorrow sees its sin against God and therefore wants to leave it.
- The sorrow of the world is preoccupied with how I feel (Godly sorrow is preoccupied with how God feels).

- The sorrow of the world leads me nowhere but to myself. (Godly sorrow leads me to the next step in victorious Christian living).

## **Question #2: What is Repentance Towards God?**

(v. 10) Godly sorrow worketh (or produces) what? - (v. 10) "Repentance"

**Question:** What is repentance?

1. Repentance is the gift of God that produces lasting change.
2. Repentance defined is: "sorrow for sin with a sincere desire to forsake it."
3. Repentance is God's grace that leads me to conviction (or Godly sorrow), repentance (or change of mind) and salvation from sin (deliverance that is lasting).

**Fact:** Remorse is a human feeling that never graduates beyond guilt, regret, and the consequences of behavior.

**Fact:** Repentance sets the prisoner free because it cries out to God for mercy and discovers the grace of God in power for holy living.

- Repentance is responding to Godly sorrow.
- Repentance is a work of God down deep.
- Repentance is the fruit of Godly sorrow which says "God, I'm sorry, and I've had it with sin."
- Repentance results in a change of heart revealed by a change in conduct.
- Repentance is my part in the process that sees God work a powerful cleansing and freedom within.

**Fact: There is nothing negative (not one thing whatsoever) about repentance.**

### **In Fact:**

- Hebrews 6:1 says: repentance is basic to the teachings of Jesus.
- Luke 15:10 says: angels in heaven rejoice when people on earth repent.
- II Peter 3:9 says: it's the will of God that everyone exercises repentance.
- Acts 11:18 says: God granted the Gentiles repentance unto life!
- In Revelations 3:19, 20 Jesus says: "I stand at the door and knock, and at repentance, I walk through the door."

### **What Is Repentance?**

1. Always a change for the better! (Something that is durable!)
2. Always a change that leads us higher and further on!
3. Always a change that: #1 Seeks God's pardon and #2. Experiences God's power.

## **Question: #3: What is the fruit of Godly sorrow that leads to repentance?**

**(In Other Words)**

1. If I am sorry for my sin against God and,
2. If I repent (or change my mind and forsake it).

**(What's the result?)**

(v. 10) "*For Godly sorrow worketh repentance (and leads to what?)* Salvation not to be

repented (or regretted of).

**(What's the result?)**

(v. 11) *"For behold the self same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves."*

**(Two words of Victory)**

- The word "carefulness" means: haste, speed, diligence, eagerness
- It means the Corinthians went to work immediately:
  1. To remove themselves from every sin.
  2. To separate from everything that defiled.
  3. To get radical about every unaddressed compromise.
  4. To be angry over sin that had been allowed to exist.
- The word "clearing" means: "apology for what had been done."
- It means the Corinthians "cleared themselves" (or) accepted responsibility for their part so that God could do His part.

**A Simple Illustration**

1. A traveler learns that he is on the wrong train (conviction).
2. The traveler is disturbed at his discovery and annoyed (Godly sorrow).
3. He leaves the train at the first opportunity and boards the right train (repentance).
4. Thus, his change of mind (and practical response) allows him to get where he is supposed to go).

**Conclusion**

**(What's the positive joy of this process of change?)**

**(v. 10) "...not to be regretted."**

**It means:**

1. You will never regret the Holy Spirit's conviction!
2. You will never regret Godly sorrow!
3. You will never regret getting it out in the open!

**(Why not?)**

- Because to the extent I agree with God and come clean; to that same extent I will experience the power of God that leads to change.

**(In other words)**

1. Godly sorrow will lead us to great effort to cooperate with God and purify our hearts!!!
2. Godly sorrow sees every sin against God, instead of focusing on how I feel with the consequences.
3. Godly sorrow causes me to feel sorry that I haven't felt sorry enough to repent of what I need God to change.

Amen!  
Bill Kirk

**“WORLDLY SORROW”**  
vs.  
**“GODLY SORROW”**

*“For **godly sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of. But the **sorrow of the world** worketh death.” (II Corinthians 7:10)*

**What’s The Difference Between:**

**“Worldly Sorrow”**

**“Godly Sorrow”**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Regrets over being guilty.....                | Regrets over offending God              |
| 2. Sorrows because of how I feel.....            | Sorrows because of how God feels        |
| 3. Remorse over the consequences of sin.....     | Remorse over the cause of sin           |
| 4. Shifts blame for its behavior.....            | Accepts responsibility for its behavior |
| 5. Withdraws from deep soul searching.....       | Longs for deep probing of the Spirit    |
| 6. Resists holiness and godliness preaching..... | Wants to hear a convicting Word         |
| 7. Wants to cover up my sin.....                 | Wants to uncover my sin                 |
| 8. Leads to repeating my sin.....                | Leads to forsaking my sin (repentance)  |
| 9. Leaves me unchanged.....                      | Allows God to change me                 |
| 10. Produces great regret.....                   | Never leaves me with regret             |

(Results in “**death**”)

(Results in “**life**”)

**Remember**

**Calvary only covers what we uncover!!!**

Amen!  
Bill Kirk