

Clearing Up Misunderstandings 2 Corinthians 7:10-16

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

2 Corinthians 7:10-16 — *10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. 12 So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. 13 Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. 14 For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. 15 And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. 16 I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.*

Is it possible to feel bad over something that we've done that could actually produce something good in our lives? He's also showing us how we can clear up misunderstandings in our relationships with others and how to know when a misunderstanding really is cleared up.

Misunderstandings are cleared up when we make **REAL CHANGE** that results in **JOY & TRUST!**

1. Godly grief salvages **RELATIONSHIPS**. 2 Corinthians 7:10

There is a godly grief and there is a worldly grief. They may actually look identical on the surface. And the only way you can tell the difference between them is by what they produce.

When it comes to making changes that salvage a relationship, repentance is never a mistake. It is without regret. Godly grief (regret) turns me to God while worldly grief turns me to myself.

The sorrow that leads to real change may be painful, but it is never regrettable!

2. Godly grief reveals **DEVOTION**. 2 Corinthians 7:11-13

There is a pure heart at the end of godly grief!

3. Godly grief produces **JOY & TRUST**. 2 Corinthians 7:14-16

Clearing up misunderstandings is not about who's right or who's wrong, but about benefiting others.

Moral people, religious people say, "Look what my sin cost me. Look at the punishment it's bringing." You're weeping, see? But Christians say, "Look what my sin cost Christ. Look at how it's

hurting him.” One is self-pity; the other is repentance. As one of the old ministers used to say, “A moral person brings his or her sin to Mount Sinai and thinks about the great punishment that is coming, but a Christian brings his or her sin to the cross and says, ‘Is this the return I give my Savior for his overwhelming love for me?’ ” –Tim Keller

Godly grief throws us to the foot of the cross. The dying Christ slays the dragon of guilt and frees us to turn boldly away from sin, rebuke the defeated devil, and walk joyfully with God in the narrow path of righteousness that leads to life. –John Piper

Let’s talk about clearing up misunderstandings...

1. What is godly grief and how does it produce repentance?
2. What is the salvation that it leads to that is without regret?
3. What is worldly grief and how does it produce death?
4. What is the difference between repentance and remorse?
5. What kinds of change did the Corinthian believers experience through godly grief?
6. Why is it so easy to experience misunderstandings in our relationships?
7. What really was the thing that produced joy in the heart of Paul?
8. How had Paul demonstrated his trust in what God was doing in the hearts of the Corinthian believers?
9. What was it that caused Timothy’s affection for the Corinthian believers to increase?
10. What misunderstanding do you need to work on clearing up that could salvage a relationship?