



## 2 Corinthians 7: Godly Repentance

*Gathering all generations  
to pray for all nations  
ASKing God to do what only He can do  
and doing whatever He ASKs of us.*

*Such repentance leads to salvation,  
deliverance and freedom from bondage*

**If you have not already worked through the Basic Lessons, also found under Teaching Resources, it is recommended you do so, in order to get the most out of this and the other teaching lessons.**

**Application:** Read the lesson, then meditate through the Scriptures as you are led. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead your meditation, to tell you when to stop and receive. What you receive is the basis for your prayers. When you receive a word from one of the Scriptures, respond to God concerning what He is saying to you. This constant response and aligning yourself to the Word of God matures your spiritual life. **Group:** Take a quick sharing of all that was received. Pray out one prayer point at a time, with others adding to the prayer until it is finished, then start the next prayer point. Pray out all that was received.

**Context:** 1 Corinthians 7:9-11, Paul is writing to converts in the Corinthians church. The believers were from a city known for sexual immorality. Corinth's chief goddess was Aphrodite to the Greeks and Venus to the Romans, the goddess of licentious love. One thousand prostitutes served in this temple as part of the religious service. "To Corinthianize" was to practice prostitution.

It is godly sorrow that leads to godly repentance. This passage stands as a pattern for godly repentance without which nothing will change in a life.

**v9 "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."**

**v10 "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."** Salvation here is Greek soteria. Synonyms include: deliverance, health, salvation, save, saving.

**Paul states there are two kinds of sorrow**, a godly sorrow and a worldly sorrow. A godly sorrow leads to repentance and life while a worldly sorrow, just being sorry you were caught or sorry there are consequences to your sin, produces shame and self-condemnation and is a hindrance to salvation. In ungodly sorrow a person may denigrate themselves but there is no heart change and nothing changes in the natural or spiritual realm.

**v11 "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, i.e. moral faultlessness in this matter."** Peter's repentance when He denied Christ is an example of godly repentance while Judas showed no fruit of repentance, but remorse and guilt and killed himself. Matthew 26:75, 27:3-5

### **Verse 11 lists the fruits of repentance:**

Apply these personally. Make them part of your repentance.

- diligence** — to deal with promptly and thoroughly,
- clearing of yourselves** — from the word “apology,” making whatever kind of restitution is needed.
- what indignation** — a hatred of the sin, to see the sin for the evil it is.
- what fear of the Lord** — that will keep you from sin and its consequences.
- what vindication** — a clearing of all guilt.
- what vehement desire** — when the sin is cleansed your longing for God returns.
- what zeal** — a fervency for God.
- what vindication** — a clearing of yourself.

In the passage, Paul was dealing with many problems in this church, here he dealt with incest, 1Corinthians 5:1-7, In this case they separated themselves from the sinner to bring him to repentance.

Paul told them as a church to denounce the sin, “**deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus,**” 1Corinthians 5:5-7. This was extreme action if there was no repentance and was for spiritual restoration, 1 Corinthians 11:32.

**Respond** to God through each fruit of godly repentance.

Ask God’s help to establish this pattern in your life.

**Godly sorrow**, deal with things quickly and thoroughly. When you sin, run to God, not away from Him. Do not waste time feeling guilty, ashamed. Refuse condemnation which will keep you from God.

**Clear yourself**, make whatever restitution is possible and wise, starting with an apology if necessary and confession of the sin to God.

**Indignation for the sin** not for yourself. See the evil of the sin, turn from it, hate it.

**Fear of the Lord**, understand your accountability before God, the damage sin does to you and to others. Understanding the consequences of sin is part of the fear of the Lord.

**Vehement desire**, a restored desire for God. Ask.

**Zeal**, ask for a fervency for God.

**Vindication**, know that you are vindicated, cleared and clean, the matter is settled before God and man.

**Application:** Pray for this kind of godly sorrow leading to repentance, for the Church and for the unsaved. This kind of repentance can result in deliverance, i.e. freedom from some besetting sin as part of salvation.