

Worldly Sorrow vs Godly Sorrow *(2Corinthians 7:10-11)*

I. When sorrow over sin functions as God intends one will move into the practice of repentance leading to salvation (V10) (Ps.51:1-4, Matt26:69-75, Acts 2:36-41, 1Thess.1:6-9, Lk.19:8-10)

- a. **Definition** of Godly Sorrow- Godly sorrow can be defined as having a grief over sin in regards to God. A person is grieved over the reality that he has offended the almighty God. This person has a sense of guilt with a desire and will to turn away from that which has offended God. Godly sorrow has emphasis on the relationship with the Person of God instead of the consequences of the sin. In other words, the person is sorrowful because of offending God not because of the punishment he will get. This is why we call it contrite sorrow.
- b. **Direction** of Godly Sorrow – Godly sorrow leads us in the direction of repentance towards God. Repentance is the act of changing one’s mind resulting in change of action towards sin. It is not merely feeling bad and seeing sin differently. It is seeing sin from God’s perspective resulting in change of purpose and life away from the sin. This why we call it contrite sorrow.
- c. **Destination** of Godly Sorrow – Godly sorrow leads a person to salvation. Salvation is a deliverance from sin resulting in a right relationship/fellowship with God and all that comes with the right relationship/fellowship.

II. When sorrow over sin functions according to the world’s standard one will not repent of his sin resulting in death (v10) (Exodus 9:27-35, Matthew 27:3-5, Genesis 4:1-14)

- a. **Definition** of Worldly Sorrow - Worldly sorrow can be defined as grief over the consequences of sin. It is a grief in connection with the results sin brings. This person has a sense of guilt yet he is not willing to turn away from the sin. Sorrow that functions in line with the world mourns the consequences of sin without considering God. A person functioning in worldly sorrow has a fear of what is going to happen to them as result of getting caught. It is remorse over sin with a change of mind about the sin but not change of purpose or life away from the sin.
- b. **Direction** of Worldly Sorrow - Worldly sorrow leads us away from God instead of to God. Those who walk in worldly sorrow focus on relief of pain instead of relationship with God. Worldly sorrow leads to a preoccupation with self instead of preoccupation with God’s redemption.
- c. **Destination** of Worldly Sorrow – Worldly sorrow leads us to death. Death is separation from God resulting in a disconnect from the power, provision, promises and personal presences of God and all that results from that disconnect. This is why we call it casualty sorrow.

III. There are certain indicators of worldly sorrow. (v10)

(Genesis 4:1-14, Mark 10:17-22, Exodus 9:27-35, Matthew 27:3-5)

- a. Sorrow over what will **happen** to you as a result of your sin but no concern over how your sin has dishonored God or damaged others. (Genesis 4:1-14)
- b. Sorrow over **sin** in the situation but unwilling to let go of the treasure that keeps you in sin and away from genuine fellowship with God. (Mark 10:17-22)
- c. Sorrow over the situation, acknowledgment of sin and acknowledgment of the character of God, but no **reverence** for God or fear of God's judgment in the matter. (Exodus 9:27-35)
- d. Sorrow over the situation, acknowledgement of sin and acknowledgment of the character of God, but preoccupied with **relief** from the pain of the sin while continuing to practice the sin. (Exodus 9:27-35)
- e. Sorrow over sin yet seeking to handle the consequences of the sin according to your **will** instead of God's way. (Matthew 27:3-5)

IV. There are certain indicators of godly sorrow (what we call contrite sorrow). As we see these things manifest we are looking at genuine repentance take place. Repentance is the act of changing one's mind resulting in change of action towards sin. It is seeing sin from God's perspective resulting in change of purpose and life away from the sin. (v11)

- a. **Earnestness** – it is a sense of urgency or a diligence to turn away from that which is sinful and walk in that which is right in the sight of God
- b. **Vindication of yourselves**- It is making sure that record has been set straight in the matter; the clearing of one's self as a result of being forgiven.
- c. **Indignation** – It is a hatred or disgust with the sin that has been committed. In other words the person has a hatred for the sin committed. It gives the indication that a person hates the sin as God hates or is bothered by the sin.
- d. **Fear**- one is afraid of the wrath of God. It suggest that there is a fear of the discipline of the Lord. It suggest that one has a healthy awareness that God deals with man in his sin.
- e. **Longing** – a desire for reconciliation and connection with God. A desire for a right relationship with God.
- f. **Zeal** – a passion for seeing things done right in accordance to God's will. A passion for God's will to be done in a specific matter.

- g. **Avenging of wrong** – making sure justice is done. In the context of the passage avenging wrong has to do with seeing justice done for the sin that was done. A person who is truly repentant will seek to avenge the wrong.
- h. **Innocent in the matter** - seeking to be clean of the sin for which one has committed. One is pursuing holiness in the matter. Therefore to seek to be innocent in a matter is to seek to be pure or clean.