

GOSPEL-TRANSFORMATION PRODUCES REPENTANCE

2 CORINTHIANS 7:4-16

Gospel-transformation produces _____ over sin. 8

Gospel-transformation produces _____ through godly grief. 9-11

Gospel-transformation produces _____ through repentance. 4-7, 13b-15

TRANSFORMED

2 Corinthians 7:4-16

⁴ *I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.*

⁵ *For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within.* ⁶ *But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,* ⁷ *and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*

⁸ *For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.* ⁹ *As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.* 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.*

Gospel-Transformation Produces Repentance

August 29, 2021

Open: Would you describe yourself as someone who apologizes very often? Why do think this tends to be true of you?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

1. What does verse 3 tell you about the nature of Paul's relationship to the Corinthians? How do you think this depth of commitment enabled him to endure through their willingness to listen to false teaching and untrue allegations against him? How can we cultivate that depth of affection for those to whom God has given us opportunity to minister?
2. Verse 4 introduces a change in Paul's tone to one of comfort and joy concerning the Corinthians. How did the coming of Titus give Paul a rejuvenated perspective on his relationship with these people (6, 7, 13)? Paul describes the coming of Titus as a source of comfort from God. What are some similar ways God has comforted you through other people?
3. Eight times in verses 8-11 Paul refers to grief, three of these are called godly grief. What do you think might be some characteristics of godly grief? Share of a time when you experienced godly grief. What positive benefits did it have in your life?
4. One outcome of godly grief according to verses 9, 10 is repentance. How would you describe the process of repentance to someone? While Paul says repentance leads to salvation (10), he also notes that these Corinthian believers were brought to repentance through their grief (9). What helps you to remain open to your need to repent?
5. The affection Titus felt for the Corinthians had grown as he witnessed their obedience to God in response to Paul's letter. When has the spiritual obedience of someone else increased your love for them?
6. Looking back throughout this series, how have you been encouraged to live in a transformed manner due to the good work Christ has done for you and in you? Specifically, how has Paul's encouragement for the Corinthians to remain faithful to the Gospel influenced you?

Apply: How can you be working to include godly grief and repentance into you spiritual disciplines?

Pray: Pray that as individuals and as a church community we build the depth of relationship with others that Paul was able to have with the Corinthian church. Ask God to help us remain passionately committed to living out lives which are transformed by the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 7:2-16

² Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

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