

Worldly Sorrow And Godly Sorrow

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2 Cor. 7:10

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The passage shows us true repentance. It seems that man has a hard time with repentance. He wants salvation, he repents of some sins, but keeps others.

It is important that we know what true repentance is and do it when we sin.

Let us now look at worldly sorrow and Godly sorrow:

Worldly sorrow

There are many who cry because of their circumstances, not because of love for God. If things on earth changed they wouldn't be crying at all. They pity themselves rather than being troubled about the honor and attributes of God whom they have long snubbed. They wish to be delivered from their gloom, but not in the way that gives glory to God.

There are several examples of this kind of sorrow. (Esau's tears, the repentance of Pharaoh, the sorrow of the rich young ruler).

The prophet Joel spoke this to some people that needed to repent.

Joel 2:13, *“And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”*

What are the marks of worldly sorrow?

Worldly sorrow comes from man's awareness of the broken law. (Getting caught speeding). As time goes by, he may want to buy a gadget that will warn him when the police radar is on, so he can continue to speed.

Worldly sorrow centers upon the plans which man makes. Man wants to live worldly and sinful, but somehow work it out so as to go to heaven in the end.

Some are sorry for their sins and may momentarily repent, but not for long.

Worldly sorrow results in men leaving many sinful ways, but not hating and turning their backs on sin itself. Some exchange one drug for another. One may hate swearing, but cheat on his income taxes.

Worldly sorrow leaves a man powerless to resist temptation. Worldly sorrow is simply turning in disgust from your sins; it stops short of turning in faith to Christ.

Worldly sorrow causes someone to look to other men for assistance. He is depressed with life and he will look for a doctor, psychiatrist, counselor, or anyone who will become a substitute for Christ.

Sorrow of the world leads to death (soul lost).

Godly sorrow leads to salvation

2 Cor. 7:10, *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*

Godly sorrow brings about a comprehensive repentance, not just a turning from our sins, but from our sin, truly repenting.

We must get to the root of the sin. True repentance begins with being sorry that you hurt God. (Unless, that is, no true repentance will be forthcoming.)

Note these illustrations of true repentance:

King David. Psalms 51:1-19, *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt*

offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.”

The prodigal son. Luke 15:18, *“I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,”*

Godly sorrow brings a change — away from sin to righteous living.

Repentance brought on by godly sorrow is focused on our sin, and also on the Savior, Jesus Christ. (Desire to please Him). Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to trust in the Savior. (Surrender). One turns his life over to the Christ, for His leading (whether saint or sinner).

Such repentance leads to putting to death sin.

Col. 3:1-8, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

Conclusion

Repenting of some sins and keeping others is not godly repentance.

Being sorry that our sins were exposed is worldly sorrow.

Genuine repentance involves getting to the root of the sin, by being sorry that you hurt God, and surrendering your life to God once again.

Do you need to repent?

