

Bold, Part 13: "Godly Grief"
2 Corinthians 7:2-16
 Pastor Andrew Jun

Be assured that godly grief leads to repentance that leads to shared joy.

I. Read verses 2-4: Be Assured...

(ESV) 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.

- Lesson #1: We take risks in correcting our family in Christ because we love them. See Acts 18, 1 Corinthians 5:9, 1:11, 2 Corinthians 2:1.

Timeline of Paul's relationship with the Corinthian church	
~AD50-53	Paul helped to start the church in Corinth and stayed 1.5 years (Acts 18).
	From Ephesus, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to address the issue of their sexual immorality (1 Cor 5:9).
~AD54-55	Paul received a letter from the household of Chloe (1 Cor 1:11) reporting more problems in the church. <i>In response, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.</i>
	Timothy reported that the church's condition worsened, prompting Paul to visit. His visit was "painful" (2 Cor 2:1) as they rebelled against his apostolic authority.
	Paul "tearfully" warned the Corinthians of God's judgment and sent Titus to them.
~AD55-56	Titus returned to Paul with a report of the church's repentance. <i>In response, Paul wrote 2 Corinthians.</i>

II. Read verses 5-9: Godly Grief...

(ESV) 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.

- Lesson #2: We trust that God uses our grief to point us to our great need for Christ. See Matthew 7:3-4.

III. Read verses 10-13a: Repentance...

(ESV) 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. 13a Therefore we are comforted.

- Lesson #3: We understand that repentance from godly grief is an act of God's grace. See Psalm 51:12, Matthew 27:1-10, John 21:15-19.

IV. Read verses 13b-16: Shared Joy...

(ESV) 13b 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.

- Lesson #4: We look forward to the joy of experiencing true change in the Gospel.

→ Life Application:

- Engage in tough conversations with people because you love them and trust that God is at work. See Matthew 18:15-20.
- Go through the process of listening, reflecting, grieving, and repenting when confronted by others.