



2 Corinthians 7

⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it--I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹² So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³ By all this we are encouraged.

In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴ I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. ¹⁵ And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, December 3

Big Idea: We can be unbreakable during times of failure as we take a journey from recognition, to remorse, to repentance.

Key Verse: ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret. . .

Opening Question: Growing up, were your parents disciplinarians or pushovers? Were you a trouble-maker or a compliant child?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Read through the passage together
- In verse 8 Paul talks about a letter that he sent to the church in Corinth. It was a letter that caused a lot of heartache and pain both to the recipients in Corinth and to Paul because it was a letter of rebuke. This is one of the 'lost' letters of Paul and therefore we don't know the specifics of the problems Paul was confronting. Do you wish you could read that letter? Why or why not? What do you think it might say?
- In this situation, Paul chose to confront the church in Corinth rather than to allow the problems to continue. When is it more loving to confront someone with their sin than to ignore it?
- What attitudes are needed to keep loving confrontation from becoming judgmental? How do you see those attitudes in Paul?
- In his message, Pastor Tom outlined three important stages in the process of moving from moral failure to freedom.
 - **Recognition**—Identify your own failure
 - **Remorse**—Allow your failures to lead to sorrow
 - **Repentance**—Allow your sorrow to lead you to a change
- Share any reflections about the message, the service on Sunday, or the scriptures that relates to any one of these stages in the process. (if your group includes people from other churches, you may want to focus more on the scriptures themselves).
- What are the potential roadblocks to the stages along the way?
- Would you share a time when godly sorrow motivated you to make a real change in your life? How do you feel about that change now?
- What are the consequences of someone who deals effectively with his or her moral failure? Look to the scriptures to see what the results were for the believers in Corinth. Share what you find? Does this sound attractive to you?
- At the end of your study time, divide the group by gender—men with the men and women with the women. In these groups ask the question: is there an area in your life that you are currently motivated to make a change? What would your life look like if that change were to take place. (if your group knows each other well, you can expect deeper authenticity and sharing. Let everyone know that they are free to share at the level they are comfortable with. If you are leading, you might want to set the pace by being more vulnerable yourself.)
- As you close, pray for one another about these things.