

Good Grief

2 Corinthians 7:1-16

A great theologian once said, “to be a sinner is our distress, but to know it, is our hope!” Paul would say “Amen.” We have nothing to lose and everything to gain if we are in Christ and walking into the light. The Corinthians had been hiding an internal scandal. They were tempted to cover it up and not to call it sin. Paul patiently and effectively ministered to the Corinthians, urging them not to cover up the problem. The result was what Paul calls godly sorrow, a subject we will explore in this study.

1. Read 7:2–16. Paul now recalls how comforted he was when he met Titus in Macedonia and heard news of the Corinthians. What makes Paul so “confident,” “proud” and “encouraged” (v. 4) about the Corinthians?

2. Referring to their response to his “sorrowful letter” (v. 8), Paul compares worldly sorrow with godly sorrow (vv. 9–10). What are the positive indications and constructive results of godly sorrow (vv. 10–11)?

3. What makes worldly sorrow so destructive?

4. In dealing with a disciplinary matter, what approach would be most likely to lead to worldly sorrow?

5. If godly sorrow is so beneficial, why do you think most Christians shrink from the relational work, discipline and tough love that are required to bring it about in others?

6. In what areas of your life are you most in need of godly sorrow?

7. What will you do about this?