

Godly grief issues repentance while worldly grief ends with remorse.

Examples: Judas & Peter

- Both walked with, saw the example of and witnessed miracles of Jesus

Judas would betray Jesus.

Judas was a thief,

- he was the treasurer and betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Thirty pieces of silver in Hebrew culture was not a lot of money.

In today's currency that would be roughly \$500 or so.

Thirty pieces of silver were

- the exact price paid to the master of a slave
- when his slave was gored by an ox. Exo 21:32.

Judas bargained with the leaders of Israel 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

- that's what the life of Jesus was worth to them.

What would \$500.00 get a person today in exchange for their soul?

After the exchange took place:

Judas was remorseful, he threw the money in the temple and hung himself for betraying innocent blood.

That's worldly grief, he could have repented but didn't.

On that same night Peter entered into the picture.

- He too failed Jesus miserably.

He once said he'd die for Jesus.

On that night Peter watched from a distance as

- Jesus was taken away, denying Him 3 times.
- Prior to the third denial he began to curse.

Cursing didn't involve profanity.

Then it meant "to vow with an oath."

- By cursing he was calling judgement on himself if
- he was not telling the truth.

Luke's account tells us that after the rooster crowed the third time, Jesus looked at Peter, then that Peter wept bitterly.

- That was godly sorrow in Peter
- which produced change in him.

David also faced sorrow.

His sin ultimately broke him when he recognized that it was his sin which separated him from God!

Hence David said:

Ps 51:1-4

1 Have mercy upon me, O God,  
According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,  
Blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,  
And my sin is always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,  
And done this evil in Your sight –

How do you know when repentance is real?

Charles Spurgeon: “when repentance is as notorious as the sin, then you know it’s real!”

How do we know the Corinthians repented?

- Verse 7 tells us they were mourning,

Have you ever mourned over your sin?

Paul stated in Verse 9 that he rejoiced in that their sorrow led them to repentance.

- He called their sorrow a godly sorrow.

Paul said that godly sorrow

- produced repentance (vs 10)
- which led to their salvation.

Then we’re told in verse 11 that they were diligent.

2 Cor 7:11

11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence (haste, eagerness - in this case to put things right. Because they sorrowed in a godly manner they wanted to make things right as soon as possible) it produced in you,

what clearing (apologia - apologetics) of yourselves, what indignation (this is the only time this is used in the bible, - anger aroused by something unjust. They were not happy for the way they'd acted in the past. They had a profound displeasure not only for what they'd done but for the people that they hurt in the process.) what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:11 (TLB)

11 Just see how much good this grief from the Lord did for you! You no longer shrugged your shoulders but became earnest and sincere and very anxious to get rid of the sin that I wrote you about. You became frightened about what had happened and longed for me to come and help. You went right to work on the problem and cleared it up [punishing the man who sinned]. You have done everything you could to make it right.

Our times of refreshing come when we repent.

Acts 3:19

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

King David took Bathsheba for himself as his wife after committing adultery with her then had her husband Uriah sent to the front line of the battle field so that he'd be killed.

David was hiding his sin but he was found out.

Nathan's words from the Lord to David:

2 Sam 12:1-7

1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. 3 But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. 4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

5 So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! 6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!

2 Sam 12:13

13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Dr. H.A. Ironside

When God forgives through the risen, glorified Jesus, He not only forgives, but He justifies. It is impossible for an earthly judge to both forgive and to justify a man. If a man is justified, he does not need to be forgiven.

Imagine a man charged with a crime going into court, and, after the evidence is all in, he is pronounced not guilty, and the judge sets him free. Someone says, as he leaves the building, "I want to congratulate you. It was very kind of the judge to forgive you." "Forgive? He did not forgive me; I was justified. There is nothing to forgive."

You cannot justify a man if he does a wicked thing, but you can forgive. God not only forgives but He justifies the ungodly, because He links the believer with Christ, and we are made "accepted in the Beloved."<sup>1</sup>

David recognized his sin:

Ps 32:3-5

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old

Through my groaning all the day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

5 I acknowledged my sin to You,

And my iniquity I have not hidden.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

David's guilt and sin was lifted from him when he repented.

Notice from Psalms his attitude after he'd been forgiven.

Ps 32:1-2

1 How happy is the one

whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered!

2 How happy is the man

the Lord does not charge with sin,

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<sup>1</sup> Knight, W. B. (1956). [\*Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations\*](#) (p. 225). Wm. B. Eerdmans .

and in whose spirit is no deceit!  
(from The Apologetics Study Bible,.)

Now, back to Corinthians verse 12:

In the previous verses 8-11 there was an outpouring of grief but after this came an outpouring of grace verses 12-16.

12 Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

13 Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true.

15 And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.

16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything.

Paul was blessed that his and Titus' relationship with the Corinthian believers was good although they'd had some differences in the past.

Genuine repentance usually reveals things in us that

- we'd forgotten about,
- or things we chose to forget

Again, verse 10 is a simple reminder of what godly and worldly sorrow produce:  
2 Cor 7:10

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

When a person truly repents

- he will never regret it.

Chapter 8:

Paul you might say was a traveling man.

- Interestingly he never asked people to support his ministry.
- He trusted that the Lord would provide.

He had no problem telling people of the needs of others.

- He sought support for the church in Jerusalem

And sought support from the churches in Greece

- as well as from the churches up north in Macedonia
- including Philippi, Berea and Thessalonica.

The church in Jerusalem struggled financially. Remember, the main source of employment at the time was temple related.

In the early church, in the book of acts,

- the principle enemies of the church were the Sadducees.
- And they didn't believe in the resurrection.

Since they didn't believe in the resurrection

- and the church preached the resurrection,
- many of the believers working in the temple lost their job.
- Many believers sold their homes and their possessions
- and distributed to those in need.

2 Cor 8:1-7

1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

There is a principle in giving and God looks at the heart behind the giving.

4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us – see that you abound in this grace also.

2 Cor 8:1

1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

Paul uses this phrase a few times and what

- he's saying is that God by His grace
- has allowed the church to give money
- to His people in Jerusalem.

Grace is mentioned 156 times in the NT and 110 times in Paul's epistles.

We do owe our very salvation to the grace of God.

- The church would not exist
- were it not for the grace of God.

The churches of Macedonia didn't have much in terms of finances.

- But they gave from what they had.

Hence Paul says in verse 1, the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia.

- Paul is saying that giving is a response to God's grace.

Everything I have is because God has given it to me.

God looks at things different than we do. He looks at the motive behind us giving.

2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

I've never read anything in the NT that states how much

- an individual is to give to the work of God.

But there is a principle in giving,

- does it cost you something?

These people, Paul says gave according to their ability.

Poor Widow, Mk 12:

41 Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

There was no welfare system.

- No support from the government.
- No social security or food stamps.
- No joy junction or other organizations

As Jesus watched, that woman threw two mites into the treasury. That would be equivalent to about 3/8<sup>th</sup> of a penny.

Notice Jesus' response:

43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

What He is concerned about and what matters most to Him is,

- my heart attitude when I give.

This carries on to every aspect of our lives,

- whether we're giving to the church,
- or time to someone

what is my attitude,

- because my attitude is a reflection of my heart.

It costs us when we go out of our way to help.

Example:

David In 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 24 wanted to build an altar to the Lord

- so he went to visit a man named Araunah
- to see about purchasing a threshing floor from him.

A threshing floor was usually located at the edge of a village, frequently on a large flat rock outcropping.

When Araunah saw David he went out and bowed before him with his face to the ground.

After hearing why David wanted to purchase the threshing floor

- Araunah offered to give it to David
- along with Oxen and wood to build.

David's response:

2 Sam 24:9

24 Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.

2 Cor 8:4

The church in Macedonia insisted on giving to the church of Jerusalem:

4 imploring (to plead and beg, used of the leper in Luke 5:12 who begged Jesus to heal him. It was used in Luke 9:38 by a father who begged Jesus to heal his son who was demon possessed) us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Why did they implore him,

- for the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.



My very first responsibility in life it to be committed to the Lord! What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul!

Finally Paul encourages the Corinthians to follow the steps of the other churches.

6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us – see that you abound in this grace also.

The Corinthians had all of the spiritual gifts.

- They spoke with eloquence,
- they had knowledge of the Lord,
- they were diligent and they loved Paul.

Finally Paul tells them, see that you abound in this grace also.