



A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS

NECESSARY CONFLICT

*Embracing godly grief on the
path to repentance and joy*

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

If we want life and joy to define our relationships, we cannot avoid every conflict. Godly grief produces repentance, and repentance is the path to real and lasting joy.

We often treat grief and joy as competing realities. Paul shows us that worldly grief produces death, but loving confrontation can create godly grief that leads people toward Jesus, restores relationships, and frees us from regret.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10

Where have I confused avoiding discomfort with pursuing peace?

REFLECT AND RESPOND

TWO KINDS OF GRIEF

Not all grief steals joy. The question is what the grief produces. Worldly grief remains centered on self, consequences, shame, and loss. Godly grief faces sin honestly and turns toward the grace of Jesus in repentance and faith.

WORLDLY GRIEF

- Protects self and pride
- Hides or minimizes sin
- Produces regret and death

GODLY GRIEF

- Names sin honestly
- Turns toward Jesus
- Produces repentance and life

We trade what is easy for what is best, present comfort for lasting joy, and avoidance for faithful love.

When I am confronted with sin, does my grief turn me inward or lead me toward Jesus?

EXAMINING THE FRUIT OF MY GRIEF

WHEN THE TRUTH IS HARD

Paul chose to speak hard truth instead of avoiding the conflict. He exposed lies and foolishness because faith in Jesus was at stake. Yet he did not condemn the Corinthians. He reminded them that they were in his heart and spoke as a father who loved his children.

"Make room in your hearts for us... you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together."

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-3

1

BE HONEST

Say what God says, even when the truth is difficult to hear.

2

BE LOVING

Speak for restoration, not punishment, superiority, or release of frustration.

3

BE BOLD

Trust God to work through His truth instead of using love as a code word for fear.

Where have I stayed silent when Jesus has clearly spoken? What fear is underneath my silence?

SPEAKING HARD TRUTH IN LOVE

WHEN RELATIONSHIP IS STRAINED

Paul did not ignore sin, pretend the problem did not matter, or hope it would blow over. He spoke hard truth into a strained relationship. That willingness to engage directly cleared up misunderstanding, confronted sin, and moved the church from tension to reconciliation.

The guiding question in every necessary conflict is not, 'How do I protect myself?' but, 'Am I pushing this person toward Christ or away from Him?'

FROM TENSION TO RECONCILIATION

1

ENGAGE DIRECTLY

Refuse gossip, withdrawal, pretending, and passive resentment.

2

CLARIFY THE PROBLEM

Separate misunderstandings that need explanation from sin that needs confrontation.

3

AIM AT JESUS

Measure every word by whether it helps the other person move toward Christ.

Which strained relationship needs a faithful step toward clarity and reconciliation?

MOVING TOWARD RECONCILIATION

WHEN WE HAVE TAKEN SIDES

The Corinthians repeatedly divided into camps. Paul entered the conflict, but not to gather supporters or defeat an opponent. The central issue was their response to Jesus. Necessary conflict loses its way whenever winning matters more than faithfulness.

I do not want you to take my side because I am not trying to win. I want Jesus to win.

PROVING I AM RIGHT



REVEALING WHAT IS TRUE

DEFEATING A PERSON



RESTORING A PERSON

BUILDING MY SIDE



SUBMITTING TO JESUS

In my current conflict, am I trying to win, recruit allies, or make Jesus central?

SURRENDERING MY SIDE TO JESUS

THE PATH OF REPENTANCE

Repentance is not a business deal to earn God's acceptance. Jesus secured forgiveness at the cross. Repentance is the relational restoration of joy with the God who already loves us, and it teaches us to extend that same grace to others.

FOUR STEPS OF GOSPEL-CENTERED REPENTANCE

1

BE HONEST

Name the sin biblically and expose the motives beneath the action.

2

BE HUMBLE

Confess to God and others, admitting your need for forgiveness and help.

3

BE HOPEFUL

Trust that Jesus paid for every sin and supplies grace for victory.

4

BE HAPPY

Take hold of God's promises and rediscover the joy He created you for.

What specific sin do I need to bring into the light through honest, humble, hopeful, and joyful repentance?

MY NEXT STEP OF REPENTANCE

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 How can grief and joy exist together in a gospel-centered relationship?
- 02 What fruit distinguishes worldly grief from godly grief?
- 03 Where are you using love as a code word for fear and avoiding hard truth?
- 04 How does asking whether you are moving someone toward Jesus reshape conflict?
- 05 Where are you trying to win or gather allies instead of letting Jesus win?
- 06 Which step of repentance - honest, humble, hopeful, or happy - do you most need today?

PRAY: Ask God for courage to speak truth in love, humility to receive correction, wisdom to pursue reconciliation, and faith to believe that repentance is the path to lasting joy.

NOTES AND PRAYER

EMBRACE NECESSARY CONFLICT

Repentance is not a burden but a blessing. Because God already loves us in Jesus, we can run toward His grace and help others do the same.

1

WHERE HAVE I BEEN AVOIDING CONFLICT?

Name the truth, relationship, or division you have refused to address.

2

WHERE HAVE I BEEN RESISTING REPENTANCE?

Name the sin, excuse, fear, or pride that must be brought into the light.

3

WHERE IS THE SPIRIT LEADING ME TOWARD JOY?

Choose one concrete next step in confession, confrontation, or reconciliation.

Turn your back to sin and your face to God.

MY NEXT STEP TOWARD JOY