

## Paradox - Transformation through Confrontation

**Icebreaker:** Recall a memorable fight or confrontation you've had in the past. Why is it so memorable?

**The motivation for godly confrontation is always loyal love...**

For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you. **(2 Cor. 2:4)** - Have you ever been motivated by something other than love in dealing with confrontation? What was it and what happened? What happened in a time when you were motivated by love?

- **I am my "brother's keeper"** – "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..." **(2 Cor. 7:8)** –

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. **(James 5:19-20)** - How does it make you feel that we are both responsible to and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Are you open to what James says in chapter 5? Are there any risks with following James 5?

- **The pre-cursor to spiritual transformation is godly grief** – "...yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance." **(2 Cor. 7:9a)**

¶ **Sometimes a hard word leads to a soft heart** – "For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." **(2 Cor. 7:9b-10)** – What is your natural response when someone gives you a hard word? Who has the freedom to give you the hard words when necessary? To whom do you have the freedom to give a hard word when needed?

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. **(Gal. 6:1a)**

<b>Godly Repentance</b>	<b>Natural Regret</b>
<b>Comes from <u>God</u></b>	<b>Comes from the <u>world</u></b>
<b><u>Reconciles</u> relationships</b>	<b><u>Ruins</u> relationships</b>
<b>Ends in <u>salvation</u></b>	<b>Ends in <u>death</u></b>

¶ **Repentance isn't just a change of heart, it's a change of choice** – "When he came to his senses, he said... 'I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'" **(Luke 15:17-18)**

- **The paradox: the very thing we want comes by way of the very thing we avoid** – "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." **(2 Cor. 7:11a)** –

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. **(Luke 3:8)** - Do you desire transformation in order to be more Christlike? If so, confrontation and repentance are great ways to be transformed. How open are you to move more regularly into confrontation/repentance both on the receiving side and giving side? What steps might you take in the future?