

## “Being Changed to Live Like Jesus”

### The Difference Between Godly Sorrow & Worldly Sorrow

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Steve Freeburne / June 27, 2004

#### I. Review of last week

Why do I have to change?	What has to change?	How does it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My heart is sinful</li><li>• We are bought with a price</li><li>• Our new nature demands it</li><li>• The days are evil</li><li>• The depth of our Christian experience is built on it</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our HEART</li><li>• Our DESIRES</li><li>• Our MOTIVES</li><li>• Our MIND</li><li>• Our ACTIONS</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COOPERATIVE EFFORT with the Holy Spirit</li><li>• His POWER</li><li>• Our OBEDIENCE</li></ul>

#### II. Beginning the Process of Change

##### Starting down the path of biblical change requires repentance.

**II Corinthians 7:8b-10 NIV:** ... I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while – 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. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

The Cross of Jesus Christ is a radical thing. And God had to do a radical thing to get us back into fellowship with Him. Now if you think you can get the benefits of the Cross without ever facing up to the sin that required the Cross, you are kidding yourself and trusting in a false gospel. All transformation starts on this point: repentance. Repentance is the first step in salvation, and repentance is the first step in transformation. But repentance is not easy. If it were easy, everyone would be doing it. *I Really Want to Change... So Help me God*, James MacDonald pages 86-87

**How are you coming with identifying an area in your life that you would like to work with the Holy Spirit and change? What is it?** \_\_\_\_\_

Consider **Mark 12: 30 NIV:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Please take the time this week to complete the evaluation sheet included with the sermon outline in order to help you identify areas for change.

#### III. If biblical change requires repentance, what exactly is it?

The Greek word for repentance is metaneo. **It means to change one's mind and purpose with regard to sin.**

**Repentance is looking at our sin through God's eyes, seeing it and understanding it as the Lord does.**

**Repentance includes having a new purpose.**

Eph 4:22-24 describes three aspects of this new purpose

1. **Throw off our sinful nature and our former way of life.**
2. **Renew your thoughts and attitudes**
3. **Display our new nature**

**Ephesians 4:22-24 NLT:** Throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness – righteous, holy and true.

#### IV. How then do we repent?

**Look at the example of the prodigal son found in Luke 15:11-32**

**Repentance involves the use of our:**

##### **MIND:**

**Luke 15:17:** And when he came to his senses, he said “How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

##### **EMOTION:**

**Luke 15:19:** I am no longer worthy to be called your son, make me like one of your hired men.

##### **WILL:**

**Luke 15:18:** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him, “Father I have sinned.”

## V. How do we know if we have repented?

**II Corinthians 7:10 teaches us that that we are brought to true repentance through godly sorrow.**

Commenting on Psalms 119:68 Charles Spurgeon notes: “He who mourns that he has not kept the word longs to be taught it, and he who rejoices that by grace he has been taught to keep it is no less anxious for the instruction to continue. *The Treasury of David*, vol. III page 272

**The essence of godly sorrow is found in humility**

Humility is the frame of mind a man possesses who is fully aware of his nothingness apart from God and of his sinfulness that would eternally separate him from God were not God willing to rescue him. When a man finally recognizes that he is a rebel against God and decides to lay down his arms, he demonstrates humility by his repentance. When he becomes aware that he cannot make life work his own way but desperately needs God, he demonstrates humility by a sense of continued dependence. No man who has been humbled before God is self-justifying, self-protective, or self-confident. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 73

**II Corinthians 7:11 teaches us that godly sorrow which brings repentance also involves**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Earnestness</u></li><li>• Eagerness to have a <u>clear conscience</u></li><li>• <u>Indignation</u></li><li>• <u>Alarm</u> or fear</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Longing</u></li><li>• <u>Zeal</u> or concern</li><li>• Readiness for <u>justice</u></li></ul> |
|--|--|

**On the other hand worldly sorrow rather than producing repentance produces regret and death.**

Unfortunately, we often do not understand the treachery that lies in our heart. We sometimes think we are pretty good people who “mess up” once in a while. The biblical picture is just the opposite: we are all pretty bad people who do right only by the grace of God. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 26

Since there is such a law of indwelling sin in Christians, then it is our duty to find it out, as if a fire were in our home. Our earnestness for grace, our watchfulness, and our diligent obedience depends upon this discovery. Upon this one hinge the whole course of our lives will turn. Ignorance of it breeds senselessness, carelessness, sloth, self-sufficiency, and pride – all of which the Lord abhors. Eruptions into great, open, conscience-wasting, and scandalous sins are the result of a lack of due consideration of this basic law of indwelling sin. *Sin and Temptation*, John Owen, page 9

## VI. Lord teach us humility & grant us repentance!

**Acts 5:31; Acts 11:18 and II Timothy 2:25** teach us that repentance is actually something that God must grant us.

Jim Berg describes on pages 77-84 in *Changed into His Image* four means the Lord can use to teach us humility in a way that leads us to repentance.

1. He can send us a problem we can’t handle to expose our helplessness. II Kings 5 (Naaman and his leprosy)

Like Naaman, we often come to God with an agenda of our own choosing. We think we know best what changes should occur in our lives and how those changes should be brought about. We believe that the blessing of life will be ours if we can just control the circumstances and people in our lives. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 78

2. He can give us a command we won’t obey to expose our self-centeredness. The book of Jonah (Nineveh’s repentance)

Why it is that a little ease works in us so much disease? Can we never rest without rusting? Never be filled without waxing fat? Ever rise as to one world without going down as to another? What weak creatures we are to be unable to bear a little pleasure! What base hearts are those which turn the abundance of God’s goodness into an occasion to sin. *The Treasury of David*, Charles Spurgeon, volume III page 271

**3. He can arrange an outcome we can't control to expose our sinfulness.** II Samuel 11-12 (The death of David's son)

There is no abiding joy without holiness... How important then is the truth that sanctifies! How crucial is the Word that breaks the power of counterfeit pleasures! And how vigilant we should be to light our paths and load our hearts with the Word of God! *John Piper*

**4. He can show us a God we can't comprehend to expose our finiteness.** Job 38-41 (God's questioning of Job)

**Job 42:2-6 NIV:** I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, "Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?" Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, "Listen now and I will speak, I will question you, and you shall answer me." My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

**VI. Lord teach us humility & grant us repentance!**

**Acts 5:31; Acts 11:18 and II Timothy 2:25** teach us that repentance is actually something that God must grant us.

Jim Berg describes on pages 77-84 in *Changed into His Image* four means the Lord can use to teach us humility in a way that leads us to repentance.

**1. He can send us a problem we can't handle to expose our helplessness.** II Kings 5 (Namaan and his leprosy)

Like Naaman, we often come to God with an agenda of our own choosing. We think we know best what changes should occur in our lives and how those changes should be brought about. We believe that the blessing of life will be ours if we can just control the circumstances and people in our lives. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 78

**2. He can give us a command we won't obey to expose our self-centeredness.** The book of Jonah (Nineveh's repentance)

Why it is that a little ease works in us so much disease? Can we never rest without rusting? Never be filled without waxing fat? Ever rise as to one world without going down as to another? What weak creatures we are to be unable to bear a little pleasure! What base hearts are those which turn the abundance of God's goodness into an occasion to sin. *The Treasury of David, Charles Spurgeon*, volume III page 271

**3. He can arrange an outcome we can't control to expose our sinfulness.** II Samuel 11-12 (The death of David's son)

There is no abiding joy without holiness... How important then is the truth that sanctifies! How crucial is the Word that breaks the power of counterfeit pleasures! And how vigilant we should be to light our paths and load our hearts with the Word of God! *John Piper*

**4. He can show us a God we can't comprehend to expose our finiteness.** Job 38-41 (God's questioning of Job)

**Job 42:2-6 NIV:** I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, "Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?" Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, "Listen now and I will speak, I will question you, and you shall answer me." My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

**"Being Changed to Live Like Jesus"**

**The Difference Between Godly Sorrow & Worldly Sorrow**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Steve Freeburne / June 27, 2004*

**I. Review of last week**

Why do I have to change?	What has to change?	How does it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My heart is sinful</li> <li>• We are bought with a price</li> <li>• Our new nature demands it</li> <li>• The days are evil</li> <li>• The depth of our Christian experience is built on it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our HEART</li> <li>• Our DESIRES</li> <li>• Our MOTIVES</li> <li>• Our MIND</li> <li>• Our ACTIONS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COOPERATIVE EFFORT with the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• His POWER</li> <li>• Our OBEDIENCE</li> </ul>

## II. Beginning the Process of Change

### Starting down the path of biblical change requires repentance.

**II Corinthians 7:8b-10 NIV:** ... I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while – 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. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

The Cross of Jesus Christ is a radical thing. And God had to do a radical thing to get us back into fellowship with Him. Now if you think you can get the benefits of the Cross without ever facing up to the sin that required the Cross, you are kidding yourself and trusting in a false gospel. All transformation starts on this point: repentance. Repentance is the first step in salvation, and repentance is the first step in transformation. But repentance is not easy. If it were easy, everyone would be doing it. ***I Really Want to Change... So Help me God***, James MacDonald pages 86-87

**How are you coming with identifying an area in your live that you would like to work with the Holy Spirit and change? What is it? \_\_\_\_\_**

Consider **Mark 12: 30 NIV:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Please take the time this week to complete the evaluation sheet included with the sermon outline in order to help you identify areas for change.

### III.If biblical change requires repentance, what exactly is it?

The Greek word for repentance is metaneo. **It means to change one's mind and purpose with regard to sin.**

**Repentance is looking at our sin through God's eyes, seeing it and understanding it as the Lord does.**

**Repentance includes having a new purpose.**

Eph 4:22-24 describes three aspects of this new purpose

1. **Throw off our sinful nature and our former way of life.**
2. **Renew your thoughts and attitudes**
3. **Display our new nature**

**Ephesians 4:22-24 NLT:** Throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness – righteous, holy and true.

## IV. How then do we repent?

**Look at the example of the prodigal son found in Luke 15:11-32**

**Repentance involves the use of our:**

### **MIND:**

**Luke 15:17:** And when he came to his senses, he said “How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

### **EMOTION:**

**Luke 15:19:** I am no longer worthy to be called your son, make me like one of your hired men.

### **WILL:**

**Luke 15:18:** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him, “Father I have sinned.”

## V. How do we know if we have repented?

**II Corinthians 7:10 teaches us that that we are brought to true repentance through godly sorrow**

Commenting on Psalms 119:68 Charles Spurgeon notes: “He who mourns that he has not kept the word longs to be taught it, and he who rejoices that by grace he has been taught to keep it is no less anxious for the instruction to continue. *The Treasury of David*, vol. III page 272

**The essence of godly sorrow is found in humility.**

Humility is the frame of mind a man possesses who is fully aware of his nothingness apart from God and of his sinfulness that would eternally separate him from God were not God willing to rescue him. When a man finally recognizes that he is a rebel against God and decides to lay down his arms, he demonstrates humility by his repentance. When he becomes aware that he cannot make life work his own way but desperately needs God, he demonstrates humility by a sense of continued dependence. No man who has been humbled before God is self-justifying, self-protective, or self-confident. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 73

## **II Corinthians 7:11 teaches us that godly sorrow which brings repentance also involves**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Earnestness</u></li><li>• Eagerness to have a <u>clear conscience</u></li><li>• <u>Indignation</u></li><li>• <u>Alarm</u></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Longing</u></li><li>• <u>Zeal</u></li><li>• Readiness for <u>justice</u></li></ul>
--	---

## **On the other hand worldly sorrow rather than producing repentance produces regret and death.**

Unfortunately, we often do not understand the treachery that lies in our heart. We sometimes think we are pretty good people who “mess up” once in a while. The biblical picture is just the opposite: we are all pretty bad people who do right only by the grace of God. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 26

Since there is such a law of indwelling sin in Christians, then it is our duty to find it out, as if a fire were in our home. Our earnestness for grace, our watchfulness, and our diligent obedience depends upon this discovery. Upon this one hinge the whole course of our lives will turn. Ignorance of it breeds senselessness, carelessness, sloth, self-sufficiency, and pride – all of which the Lord abhors. Eruptions into great, open, conscience-wasting, and scandalous sins are the result of a lack of due consideration of this basic law of indwelling sin. *Sin and Temptation*, John Owen, page 9