

# 2 CORINTHIANS

The Benefit of Inadequacy

# **2 Corinthians 7:2-16**

**“Good Grief”**

*When our mistakes are called out,  
how do we respond?*

# Good Grief

## 1. The Context of Grief

*“even when we came into Macedonia...”*

## 2. The Concern of Bad Grief

*“I do not say this to condemn you ... fear within”*

## 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The Contrast of Grief (worldly vs godly)

*“godly grief produces ... whereas worldly grief produces ...”*

## 3. The Comfort of Good Grief

*“your earnestness ... therefore, we are comforted.”*

# Good Grief

## 1. The Context of Grief

*“even when we came into Macedonia...”*

- The Painful Visit (2:1) and Tearful Letter (2:4, 7:8)
- Waiting for Titus (2:12-13, 7:5-7, 13)

“When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.”— 2 Cor 2:12-13

“For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn-- fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus...” — 2 Cor 7:5-6

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- Unhealthy Coping Mechanisms
- What is Bad Grief (in conflict)?

“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

“But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.”

– Romans 2:4-5



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# Good Grief

## 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The Contrast of Grief (worldly vs godly)

*“godly grief produces ... whereas worldly grief produces ...”*

Worldly

vs

Godly

Unresponsive

vs

Turn Around

Loss / Regret

vs

No Loss, No Regret

Produces Death

vs

Produces ... Salvation

Q#76: “What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and word of God, whereby out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, he so grieves for and hates his sins, as that he turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavouring constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.”

– Westminster Larger Catechism

Worldy grief is the hard heart of a sinner that, without a true sense of sin, its problem, or its offense, (though perhaps outwardly only to avoid danger/punishment) grieves against sin being exposed, but continues to love that sin, remaining fixed on it, and continuing stubbornly in that same old disobedience, unwilling to look to God.

# Good Grief

## 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The Contrast of Grief (worldly vs godly)

*“godly grief produces ... whereas worldly grief produces ...”*

Saul's excuses	vs	David's confession
Sodom's excesses	vs	Ninevah's fasting
Pharisee's exterior	vs	John the Baptist's call
Judas's shame	vs	Peter's restoration

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## 4. The Comfort of Good Grief

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- Integral to the Gospel

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

- Mark 1:14-15



“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

- Luke 24:45-47

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Acts 2:27-38

“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

- Psalm 51:16-17

# Good Grief

## 4. The Comfort of Good Grief

*“your earnestness ... therefore, we are comforted.”*

- Integral to the Gospel
- Its Pattern Leads to Salvation / Comfort

*“Complete Confidence”*

*Where are we still stuck in regrets?*