

How to Repent

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 7:2-16.
- B. We all need to repent at times.
- C. Repentance means a change of mind or a change of attitude.
- D. Paul is very gentle in admonishing the Corinthians.

II. Paul is very careful to do three things:

- A. He had a clear conscience concerning the Corinthians.
- B. He speaks to affirm and build up the church—he loves them regardless of how they behave.
- C. He encourages them—if you are going to share something difficult make sure to share something positive.

III. Paul identifies with the believers.

- A. There was fighting without and fighting within.
- B. God put these challenges of life in our midst, and He will not tempt us beyond what we can bear.
- C. God comforts the discouraged and downcast.

IV. The process of bringing someone to repentance.

- A. It begins with a loving confrontation.
 - 1. If you are willing to risk someone's friendship to tell him or her truth you show that you really love him or her.
 - 2. Paul faithfully confronts the church with what is wrong.
- B. Godly grief versus worldly grief.
 - 1. Godly grief is the pain of seeing something wrong with yourself that you have not been able to see—it is the moment of self-awareness.
 - a. Godly grief leads to repentance.
 - b. Repentance is an action that you take.

2. Worldly grief is self-pity that makes you want to retaliate.
3. There are clear-cut demonstrations if one has reacted with godly grief.
 - a. There is an eagerness to change behavior.
 - b. There is anger at the faulty actions.
 - c. There is carefulness towards the future.

C. The joy of recovery.

1. We have a renewed awareness of who we are.
2. We are vindicated before our leaders.
3. Our joy is increased.

Application questions:

1. What is Paul's approach to bringing someone to repentance?

2. What stands out to you about Paul's approach? Explain.

3. What is the best way in your opinion to respond to someone who will not repent? Defend your answer.
