



Godly Grief

“ . . . godly grief . . . is the uncomfortable feeling of guilt when the Word of God shows you that what you've done is sin and thus has brought reproach on God's name . . . Godly grief is the grief of a God-saturated heart, not a world-saturated heart.”

- John Piper

What Does Godly Grief Produce?

Repentance that Leads to Salvation

Results of Godly Grief (2 Corinthians 7:10)

- 1) *Seriousness of Purpose (Earnestness)*
- 2) *Eagerness to Repent (Clearing)*
- 3) *Distaste for Sin (Indignation)*
- 4) *Alarm over past Sin (Fear of God)*
- 5) *Longing for Righteousness and Holiness (Zeal)*
- 6) *Readiness to see Justice Done (Punishment)*

The Spirit's work in our lives during seasons of godly grief leads us to confession and a pursuit of holiness only found in authentic relationship with a holy God.

2 Corinthians 7:5-13a: Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn — fighting without and fear within. ⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸ For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it— though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹ For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹² So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ^{13a} Therefore we are comforted.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read John Piper's definition of godly grief. Can you remember a time when you grieved over your sin after spending time in the Word of God?
2. How did you see the Spirit of God work in that season of repentance?
3. Pray that God moves in your heart to expose any sin in your life and leads you into the repentance that leads to holiness and an authentic relationship with Him.