

# Apply The Word

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## THE SWEET SORROW OF REPENTANCE

### Message Info

**Title:**

Repenting Rightly

**Speaker:**

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**Scriptures:**

2 Corinthians 7:8-13

**Theme:** Keep repenting, cleanse yourself from sin, for the sake of God and your joy in Him.

**Introduction:** Repentance is the faithful humbling of Jesus' disciples as they put away all the desires and fears that keep them from loving him and following him more closely. It is how we put off those hindrances that keep us from Christ so that we can gladly receive the treasure that he offers to us. But sometimes our repentance falls short of what the Bible teaches us, and our sorrow is more worldly than godly.

To properly understand how our repentance goes bad, we can consider 2 points:

**1. Don't be fooled by worldly grief**

There are 2 kinds of sorrow: worldly and godly. The fact that someone is sad—even very sad—over their sin is no guarantee that they are repentant.

Worldly sorrow is focused on worldly concerns, and is exemplified by Esau and how he responded in selling his birthright (cf. Heb 12:16-17). He wanted the blessing, but was not truly concerned with obeying God in the process.

Worldly grief is fixated on the difficulties and unpleasantness that our sin produces, and easily fuels self-pity.

**2. Pursue the grief that loves the Lord**

Godly sorrow is sincere and effective. It is focused on God and most concerned about listening to and obeying him.

Godly sorrow also embraces consequences and sees them as God's loving discipline in our lives.

Godly sorrow is easy to spot. It: is primarily concerned with God, is driven by a hunger and thirst for righteousness, animates and empowers obedience, and pursues reconciliation with the Lord and others.

Godly sorrow comes to Christ. It cries out to him for mercy (Luke 18:13). It trusts and rests in him (Matt 11:28-30).

**Questions:**

1. What is your practice of repentance?
2. Do you feel stuck in sin and feel as though your repentance is ineffective?
3. In your repentance, what roles does the recognition of your offense against God play in it? Or are you more concerned about horizontal matters, including the effects to yourself?