

**HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:**  
**A study in I and II Corinthians**  
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014

**True Repentance**  
**II Corinthians 7:2-16**  
**April 10, 2014**

**7:2-3 I. Unrepentance brings bitter division.**

:2

**A. We falsely accuse godly men.**

*“Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.”* cf. Matthew 25:24, 25

:3

**B. We foolishly misinterpret their love.**

*“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.”* cf. Exodus 14:10-12; Numbers 12:1-16

**:4-16 II. True repentance brings comfort and joy.**

:4-9

**A. Our repentance comforts our brothers.**

:4-7

**1. It restores their pride.**

*“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. 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, 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.”* cf. Philippians 4:1; I Thessalonians 1:2-10; 2:13-20

:8-9

**2. It rewards their investment.**

*“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. 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.”* cf. Luke 15:7

:10-11

**B. Our repentance sanctifies us.**

*“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 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.”* cf. Luke 3:3, 7; 5:32; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 26:20

Worldly grief → self-pity → image management → superficial change → death/judgment

Godly grief → holy zeal → heart engagement → true repentance → salvation

WSC Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Repentance unto life is a saving grace whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ doth, with grief and hatred of his sin turn from it unto God with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience

(Acts 11:18; II Tim 2:25), (Psalm 51:4a), (Psalm 51:1; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7,10), (Isaiah 6:5; Jer 31:18,19; Luke 18:13), (I Thessalonians 1:9,10), (Matthew 3:8; II Chronicles 7:14).

- :12-16 C. Our repentance unites the church.
- :12 1. We realize the true issue.  
*“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.”*  
cf. Joshua 7:10-15
- :13 2. We are comforted.  
*“Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.”*
- :14-15 3. We boast in each other.  
*“For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. And his affliction for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.”*
- :16 4. We are confident in each other.  
*“I rejoice, because I have perfect confidence in you.”*