

## 2 Corinthians 7

Title ideas:  
Rejoicing in Sorrow!  
Godly Sorrow!  
When it is Good to Hurt!  
Good Pain!

## 2 Corinthians 7:1-16 -

### Scriptures:

Exodus 30:20-21 - When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us

cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh

and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### Notes:

'these promises' = 6:16b-18

Paul had written to them previously about the sins that had been tolerated by the church. The most grievous seems to have been a man who was with his father's wife (stepmother). Even though that letter was Holy Spirit inspired, it weighed heavily upon Paul's heart because of his love for the people of the church in Corinth. Would it stir them to conviction or to anger?

With the way some people approach confrontation that the greatest sin you can commit in the church is to 'rock the boat'.

"In the Old Testament, ritual washings symbolized the repentance and recommitment of worshippers." (Pratt, 2000) page 377

'all filthiness' – "No defilement is acceptable in the Christian life, however small it may be." Page 377

God's goal in our lives is perfect holiness! Relational holiness is imputed to us through faith in Christ. Sanctification is the process we use to bring our practical lives into alignment with God's view of us. And our motivation for doing it is 'the fear of God' – reverence for God.

Scriptures:

<sup>2</sup> Open *your hearts* to *us*. *We* have wronged no

Notes:  
Paul knew that for the Corinthians to respond to his ministry, he must be a man of character. He had to be living out what he was telling and teaching them.

one, *we* have corrupted no one, *we* have cheated

no one.

Scriptures:

<sup>3</sup> *I* do not say *this* to condemn; for *I* have said

Notes:

before that *you* are in *our* hearts, to die together

and to live together.

Scriptures:

<sup>4</sup> Great *is* *my* boldness of speech toward *you*, great Notes:

*is* *my* boasting on *your* behalf. *I* am filled with

comfort. *I* am exceedingly joyful in all *our*

*tribulation.*

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup> For indeed, when **we** came to Macedonia, **our**

Notes:  
Outside – conflicts with unbelievers  
in Macedonia – Inside – fears – what  
was happening in the church in  
Corinth?

bodies had no rest, but **we** were troubled on every

side. Outside **were** conflicts, inside **were** fears.

Scriptures:

<sup>6</sup>Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast,

Notes:  
Titus told Paul how the Corinthians  
had responded to the previous letter.

comforted us by the coming of Titus,

Scriptures:

<sup>TITUS</sup>  
7 and not only by his coming, but also by the

Notes:

<sup>TITUS</sup>  
consolation with which he was comforted in you,

<sup>TITUS</sup>  
when he told us of your earnest desire, your

mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced

even more.

Scriptures:

<sup>8</sup> For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do

Notes:  
Just as a parent who must discipline their child. They regret the pain that must be inflicted, but they do not regret the good that pain can bring. Paul could be happy that the pain had led them to repentance.

not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive

that the same epistle made you sorry, though only

for a while.

Scriptures:

<sup>9</sup> Now **I** rejoice, not that **you** were made sorry, but Notes:

that **your** sorrow led to repentance. For **you** were

made sorry in a godly manner, that **you** might

suffer loss from **us** in nothing.

Scriptures:

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading*

Notes:

As hard as it is to say hard things to people, it is necessary for their sanctification or salvation. We should not regret telling people what they need to hear so that they can be delivered out of the darkness they find themselves in.

to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of

'repentance leading to salvation' – the act of judging oneself in the presence of God and thus being in the place of God's blessing.

the world produces death.

Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that **you** sorrowed

Notes:  
The church was determined to cleanse itself of evil. They desired God's blessing more than the false peace that comes from avoiding conflict.

in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in

**you**, *what* clearing *of yourselves*, *what*

indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire,

*what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* **you**

proved **yourselves** to be clear in this matter.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, although **I** wrote to **you**, *I did* not *do*

Notes:

Paul had written a harsh letter to confront them about sin. Because of his love for them, he was concerned that it would cost him the relationship.

If you don't have people in your life that will say things to you, that you need to hear, that might cost them the relationship, then you don't have real friends.

"I believe we learn from this experience of Paul's that there are circumstances in which honest confrontation, with all its pain, must occur." (Chafin, 1985) page 247

It is impossible to commit sin without doing wrong to yourself and others.

Paul hadn't written to make them feel bad, but to show them how much he cared for them and that he wanted them to be right with God.

Paul's letter to the Corinthian church was not to deal the immoral man or the man who had been offended by this immoral behavior – it for the church to examine itself to determine its attitude toward holiness.

*it* for the sake of him who had done the wrong,

nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but

that **our** care for **you** in the sight of **God** might

appear to **you**.

Scriptures:

<sup>13</sup> Therefore **we** have been comforted in **your**

Notes:

comfort. And **we** rejoiced exceedingly more for

the joy of Titus, because <sup>thus</sup> his spirit has been

refreshed by **you** all.

Scriptures:

<sup>14</sup> For if in anything **I** have boasted to <sup>his</sup> him about

Notes:

**you**, **I** am not ashamed. But as **we** spoke all things

to **you** in truth, <sup>in</sup> even so **our** boasting to Titus was

found <sup>in</sup> true.

Scriptures:

15 And his affections are greater for <sup>Titus</sup>you as he <sup>Titus</sup>

Notes:  
The Corinthians did not resent Titus for bringing the letter of rebuke to the church. They responded to him as a representative of Christ and of Paul.

remembers the obedience of you all, how with

fear and trembling you received him. <sup>Titus</sup>

Scriptures:

16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you Notes:

in everything.