

Repentance Without Regret

Description

[RG AUDIO 120217](#)

2 Corinthians 7:5-16

The apostle Paul had a rocky relationship with the church in Corinth. He helped found the church while on his second missionary journey (see Acts 18). The New Testament contains two letters Paul wrote to them after his departure. The first letter contains Paul's response to problems in the fellowship: divisions over leadership and authority, legal disputes between church members, and conflicting teachings about eternal life. It would be nice to say that all of these problems disappeared from the church after Paul's letter; unfortunately they did not.

Worldly sorrow has no transformative power. It is an emotional and spiritual dead end. The first step in dealing with any problem is godly sorrow leading to repentance. Repentance is more than feeling sorry or confession of wrongdoing; it includes a willingness to change and, by God's grace, the power to take a different direction. Nothing will meaningfully change until there is repentance; then a new direction is possible. Such godly sorrow leads to life and salvation.

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