

2 Corinthians 7:5-13

Five signs of true repentance

2 Corinthians 7:5-13

General observations

We do not know much about
the nature of the sin
committed.

We do know more about
the nature of the repentance
displayed.

2 Corinthians 7

“5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us **your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.**”

#1

**True repentance should include
zeal (support) for those who
correct us.**

Challenge #1

**Our attitude toward those
who confront us.**

“Illegal procedure” “broken relationship”
“bitterness & pay back”

2 Corinthians 7

“8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though **I did regret it** - for I see that **that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while** - 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.”

#2

**True repentance will include
temporary suffering for all parties
involved.**

Challenge #2

**Our willingness to accept
the pain of change.**

Confessing sin without leaving
the “distant land”

The pain of repentance

The Corinthians suffer the loss of a false hope.

Paul shares the pain that the sinner must endure to change direction.

2 Corinthians 7

“9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made **sorrowful according to the will of God**, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For **the sorrow that is according to the will of God** produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but **the sorrow of the world** produces death.”

#3

True repentance should not lead to worldly despair.

Challenge #3

Avoiding self - condemnation.

Bearing our cross is not the same as atoning for our sins.

Conviction of sin is “walking in the light” of who we are and what God has done in Christ.”

When we see self but do not see Christ



Death

When we see self in the context of Christ



Life



“If heroes live long enough they find out that they are villains.”

“It is not fair but he can take it”

2 Corinthians 7:11

“For behold what **earnestness** this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what **vindication** of yourselves, what **indignation**, what **fear**, what **longing**, what **zeal**, what **avenging of wrong**! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be **innocent** in the matter.”

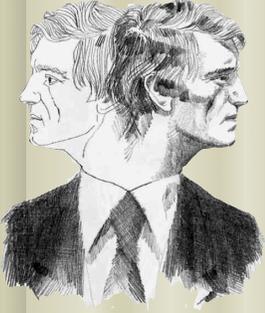
#4

True repentance should include radical change from the inside out.

Challenge #4

Changing on the inside

Whitewashing the outside may not mean a change of heart.

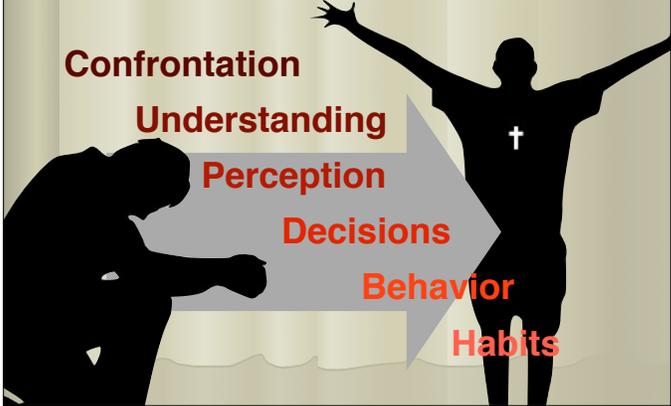


Repent

μετάνοεω
metanoeo

meta - “after”
noeo - “to perceive”

Repentance - a process



Confrontation
Understanding
Perception
Decisions
Behavior
Habits

2 Corinthians 7

“¹² So although I wrote to you it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, **but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.** ¹³ For this reason we have been comforted.”

#5

True repentance should draw us closer to one another in Christ.

Challenge #5

Restoring and building connectedness.

Repentance should lead to more intimate community not less.

How can we cultivate a “penitent spirit”?

- ✓ **Thank** those who correct us.
- ✓ Endure the **loss** of old habits.
- ✓ Refuse to give in to worldly **despair**.
- ✓ Radically **change** from the inside out.
- ✓ Rebuild **relationships**
- ✓ Remember that the **Spirit of Christ** changes hearts.



Next week
2 Cor.7:13-16

responding to the penitent