

Two Responses to Sin

- ✦ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Cor 7:13
- ✦ God is very interested in how we feel after sin.
- ✦ Godly Sorrow Produces Salvation
- ✦ Worldly Sorrow Produces Death.

Peter: Godly Sorrow

- *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*
37 Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent" and "Be Baptized" Acts 2:36-38
- They heard the truth and it cut them to the heart in a godly way leading to repentance.

Stephen: Worldly Sorrow

- *"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. ... 54 When they heard these things they were **cut to the heart**, and they **gnashed at him with their teeth**. ... Then they cried out with a loud voice, **stopped their ears**, and ran at him with one accord; ... 58 and they cast him out of the city and **stoned him**." Acts 7:51-58*
- They heard the truth and it cut them to the heart in a worldly way leading to hardening.

Causes of Worldly Sorrow

- Any reason that doesn't lead us to repent
 - Pride (just can't admit wrong)
 - Hardening (It's their fault)
 - Don't care (apathy, anger, selfishness)
 - Lust (Let us seek it yet again)
 - Lack of love (just don't care)
 - Lack of faith (doesn't seem that bad)
 - Self-esteem (too embarrassed to admit)
 - Swallowed up in too much sorrow:
What's the use – they just give up.

Adam & Eve: Worldly Sorrow

- *Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”*
- *The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Gen 3:12-13*
- The deflected their responsibility to another

Response of Godly Sorrow

- Were made sorry after a godly sort.
- What diligence it produced
- What clearing of yourselves,
- What indignation,
- What fear
- what vehement desire,
- What zeal,
- What vindication!
- In everything proved clear 2Cor 7:8-11
- Responses leading to salvation

Every Sin Requires a Response

- For the wages of **“the”** **“single”** sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:23
- I put in **“the”** because it is in the Greek (we don't use it in English but it is there for emphasis – “sin” is a singular noun
- Hence the wages for each sin is death.
- For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. James 2:10

God Highly Exalts those who Repent

- *Thus says the LORD: Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the LORD. **But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.** Isa 66:1-2*

Powerful Godly Sorrow

- *The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Ps 34:18*
- *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise. Ps 51:17*

Powerful Godly Sorrow

- *For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with **him who has a contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isa 57:15*

Worldly & Godly Sorrow Contrasted

- *The Pharisee... “God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” Lk. 18:11-14*
- *And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and **he who humbles himself will be exalted.**”*

A Mix of Godly and Worldly Sorrow

- David's initial response - worldly sorrow.
 - David very sorry for the consequences.
 - Used human wisdom without returning to God
 - Sought to deceive Uriah and entice him.
 - had Uriah killed to cover up his sin.
- Only led to a further estrangement from God.
- God sent Nathan to get godly sorrow 12:1-14
- Godly sorrow and repentance Psalm 32:1-11

A Mix of Godly and Worldly Sorrow

- David's initial response - worldly sorrow.
- *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Ps 32:1-6; Rom 4:6*
- A Months Long Gap then

A Mix of Godly and Worldly Sorrow

- Godly Sorrow

- *I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, "And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Ps 32:1-6*

God is Waiting

- *9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9*
- Just as true for His children as for those in the world.
- Just as true for the godly sorrowing as it is for the worldly sorrowing.
- So: “*consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation*” 2Pet. 3:15

Repentance and Wicked Ahab

- *But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. 26 And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 1Kings 21:25-29*

Repentance and Wicked Ahab

- *So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning. 28 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 “See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days.” 1 Kings 21:25-29*
- God confirms the power of humility and contrition.

Manasseh – One of the Worst Kings

- *Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. 2 But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 2 Chr 33:1-9*
- *So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.*

Repentance and Wicked Manasseh

- *And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. 11 Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. 12 Now when he was in affliction, **he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, 13 and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication,** and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God. 2Chr 33:10-13*

- Every sin – in thought, word, or deed
 - Brings death.
 - Brings us short of the glory of God
 - Takes something from God or man or both that doesn't belong to us
 - Brings shame and reproach to us.
- We have to properly respond.

- Only Godly Sorrow
- produces Repentance
- unto Salvation.