

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 11-17, 2022

Strength in Weakness How Grief Can Turn to Joy 2 Corinthians 7:1-16

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Take time to greet newcomers and reconnect with returning members. Discussion may revolve around summer experiences.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS:

The remedy for grief and guilt is turning to Him who bore our griefs and provides present comfort and eternal hope.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:1.** What promises does Paul refer to in this verse? Read 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 and discuss your answer.
 - a. What is Paul's instruction to the Corinthians (and to us) based on these promises?
 - b. What are some hindrances that could prevent us from doing as Paul instructs? How can we avoid these hindrances?
2. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:2-4.** In verse 2, Paul asserts his integrity in three ways, what are they? Discuss his meaning for each assertion.
 - a. In verse 3, Paul says that "we die together and live together." This saying is normally stated in the reverse order. Why did Paul say it this way, and how is this particularly meaningful to Christian believers?
 - b. In verse 4, Paul says "In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy." What gives Paul the ability to make this seemingly contradictory statement? How can we also claim this for ourselves? How can we encourage others to feel joy even when they are afflicted?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:5-9.** In verse 9, Paul ends what is called the "great Digression" by continuing his story of why he was delayed in returning to Corinth.

Based on what he says in verse 4, discuss what Paul's condition was when he reached Macedonia?

- a. What brought Paul comfort (verse 6-7)? How does this reunion point us to the value of community? Has there been a time when you were encouraged by reuniting with (a) fellow believer(s)? Discuss the circumstance.
 - b. In verses 8-9, Paul discusses a letter he sent to the Corinthians and the impact it had on them. This letter (not 1 Corinthians) is often described as severe. Paul says he initially regretted sending the letter, but later did not regret it. Why did he change his mind? What was the ultimate result of the letter?
 - c. Discuss this question: What is godly grief and why does it lead to repentance? Have you experienced this in your life? In what way?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:10-16.** Discuss this statement, "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."
- a. Paul continues to discuss the impact of grief when experienced in a godly community. What was the impact throughout the Christian community in Corinth as a result of their grief?
 - b. How important is it to you to be in a community of believers when experiencing grief? Discuss your reasoning.
 - c. Read Matthew 5:4. Discuss how the promise in this verse relates to the Corinthians experience.

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

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