

Sorrowful Love

2Corinthians 2:1-17

Focus v5-17 Part 2

True godly love is not all “mushy”, “sweet”, and “feel good” gentle sonnets. Sometimes “godly love” is a bold honest between your eyes truth that hurts, and causes sorrow! 2 Corinthians 7:8-10, Acts 2:22-47, John 4:4-26

Even when Jesus was alive, he was criticized for being a _____! eating and drinking with sinners etc. From tax collecting traitors, women of questionable character, liars, thieves, drunkards etc. Matthew 9:9-13

At the same time Jesus did not condone sin or justify their life choices. He came to bring them to _____ and save them! “Change your mind or direction” He preached more about hell than He did heaven. Matthew 13:41-42 He was not conflicted or confused about why he was sent to earth. He came to seek and save sinners just like me and you because God loves us. Matthew 1:21, Matthew 18:12-14 Good Shephard, Luke 13:1-5 repent or perish, John 8:1-11 adulterous woman

Paul was following in the footsteps of Jesus and the prophets when he wrote both his letters to the Corinthians. Paul is explaining to them especially in the first 8 verses of chapter 2 why he caused them so much sorrow with his first letter. It was because he loved them and wanted them to experience the freedom and victory in living for Christ. Paul also, was sorrowful because he did not want to cause them sorrow with his words, but he loved them too much to ignore their sinful lifestyle which would eventually destroy them. Even the man that Paul told them to “give over to Satan” Paul said that when the man repented, they were to accept him back with love! So again, true godly love sometimes causes temporary sorrow, but ultimately leads to “lasting true love”.

Proverbs 27:6 Galatians 6:1 So we are to be honest with each other about sin. Hold one another accountable and tell the truth about what is right and wrong. But...always do it in love!

Here’s three practical spiritual truths that will help you talk to others about sin:

1. Sin creates death to the people who follow their own ways
2. Sin is slavery not freedom to “do what you want”
3. Sin angers God...not because He hates us, but because he loves us and wants us to live in freedom and life and not spiritual death.

V7-8: After a person is confronted with their sin, or their sin is pointed and they repent and return to the Lord, Paul urges the Corinthians to _____ them and _____ them. So that the person is not _____ with excessive _____! So, they will reaffirm their _____ for the person who was disciplined.

V9: A true follower of Christ when they are “ put to the test “ will be _____ to the following the word of God. John 14:15 James 1:22-25

V10-17 In this particular instance Paul is telling the Corinthians that they are part of an intense spiritual battle against Satan and not to be _____ of his schemes. Ephesians 6:11. So, to win this battle we must be obedient in every aspect of our lives. Paul in verses v10-17 spells out three specific areas a believer must be obedient:

1. Live pure lives that are like an _____ that pleases the Lord and brings "life". You are not responsible for their reactions to your life. Some will reject God and experience an aroma of death. Remember it's really not you they are rejecting, it's God. Others will be attracted by the sweet fragrance and accept eternal life. Philippians 2:15, Numbers 15:7, Leviticus 23:13, Revelation 8:3-4
2. Correct and rebuke those who are sinning or teaching false doctrine but with humility and patience. 2 Timothy 4:2
3. Forgive and restore those who repent. We represent Christ as His followers and have tremendous responsibilities and power in the spiritual world, because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit! Matthew 16:9, John 20:23, James 5:16

Lastly in verse 17: Paul reminds us not to _____ our sacred privilege to share the truth of the word of God with others. He says not to _____ it but with _____ speak _____ as a representative of God. He even says, "in the sight of God". Wow! what a responsibility and sacred privilege!

So, love people with all your heart. Help them in any way possible, but always tell them the truth about sin, and God's love!

Answers: friend of sinners, repentance, forgive, comfort, overwhelmed, sorrow, love, obedient, ignorant, aroma/fragrance, take lightly, peddle, sincerity, in Christ