2 Corinthians 7:8-16

True Repentance

1. What is repentance? 8-12
   1. The situation: sin and confrontation in the letter, 8
      1. The church struggles with sin
         1. Marital problems (1 Cor 5-7)
         2. Cultural compromise; idolatry (1 Cor 8-10)
         3. Division (1 Cor 1-4)
      2. Confrontation is costly
   2. The reaction: grief and choice, 9
      1. Sin is grievous
      2. Why are you grieving your sin?
      3. Godly sorrow: repentance-salvation-no regret
      4. Worldly sorrow: death (wallowing)
   3. True Repentance, the changed offender 9-11 (Matt 3:8)
      1. Change of heart
         1. Sorrow over sin, 9
         2. Run to the cross, 10
      2. Change of action, 11
         1. Godly grief produces earnestness
         2. Eagerness to clear yourself
         3. Indignation over sin
         4. Fear of the Lord
         5. Longing for reconciliation with offended one
         6. Zeal on behalf of offended one (v7)
         7. Punishment; avenging of wrong
      3. Change of perception, 11
         1. You have proved yourselves innocent
   4. How do you view your trials? 12
      1. All about the offender?
      2. All about the offended?
      3. All about God?
         1. A chance to reveal and cultivate true worship
2. How does your repentance affect others? 13-16
   1. On the offended (Paul): comfort, joy
   2. On the mediator (Titus): increased affection
   3. Joyful confidence in the gospel (1 Cor 1:4-9)

Discussion Questions:

* Why is confrontation an essential part of gospel ministry? What things must be confronted? How do you best represent the love of Jesus in the midst of confrontation?
* What is the difference between godly grief and worldly grief? How can you tell the difference in your own life?
* What would it take for someone to describe your repentance with these words: earnestness, eagerness to clear yourself, indignation over sin, fear of the Lord, longing for restoration, avenging of wrong, proven new-found innocence? Use a specific example.