



OCTOBER 9, 2022

GRIEF

and Moving On

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

GUIDE:

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION:

(adapted NT Wright Bible Study):

1. What does a successful Christian look like to you?
2. Read the passage
3. What emotions and physical states do you see in this passage?
4. What is Paul's main concern in 2 Corinthians 7:2-10?
5. Paul was anxious about the state of the Corinthians towards him (angry, etc.). Here we learn Titus let Paul know that they are anxious about what state Paul would be in when he arrives (6-7). Paul reflects on sadness. How does Paul affirm love and yet sorrow he has caused?
6. How does sadness (grief) and change (repentance) go together?
7. Paul teaches that not all grief/sadness is the same; "world" vs. "Jesus-driven". Spell that out.
8. This passage challenges our vision of what successful or normal Christian living might be. How?
9. The passage connects humility and changing direction with deep friendship/fondness in relationship. Are both needed to reconcile?
10. What boasts could you make to others about your church or a fellow believer?

As we go through life, we wrestle with loss. Grief is the emotion we experience when we are aware of loss, but we cannot grieve what we don't know we've lost. Grief can open up new life before us. In this passage, Titus and Paul teach us that sometimes we are called to grieve.

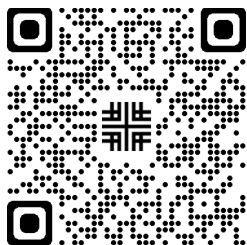
SETTING THE TABLE

OUTLINE (Baker Exegetical)

A Plea For Openness Resumed - **2 Corinthians 7:2-4**

When Titus Arrived in Macedonia: The Happy Result When the Corinthians Responded Well - **2 Corinthians 7:5-16**

1. Causes of discouragement and encouragement - **2 Corinthians 7:5-7**
2. The positive effects of Paul's harsh letter - **2 Corinthians 7:8-13a**
3. Titus' joy - **2 Corinthians 7:13b-16**



CONNECT

- Need Prayer?
- Ask Questions
- Get information
- Make Comments
- Meet with Pastor Shel or Josh
- Sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- Join a Home Church

THROUGH THE TEXT

² *Make room in your hearts[a] for us; we have wronged no one; we have corrupted no one; we have taken advantage of no one.* ³ *I do not say this to condemn you, for I have already said that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.* ⁴ *I am being completely frank with you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction.*

⁵ *For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way—disputes without and fears within.* ⁶ *But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus,* ⁷ *and not only by his arrival but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*

“Despite the words being used interchangeably, emotions and feelings are actually two different but connected phenomena. Emotions originate as sensations in the body. Feelings are influenced by our emotions but are generated from our mental thoughts... Emotions are the raw data, a reaction to the present reality, whereas feelings can be diluted by stories we’ve created in our head based on events of the past or fears of the future—not necessarily the truth of the situation.”
—Rachel Allyn Ph.D.

⁸ *For although I grieved you with my letter, I do not regret it. Although I did regret it (for[b] I see that that letter caused you grief, though only briefly),* ⁹ *now I rejoice, not because you were grieved but because your grief led to repentance, for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us.*

- What is grief? “It is the emotion(s) we experience because of loss”.

¹⁰ *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.* ¹¹ *For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter.*

¹² *So although I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the one who suffered the wrong but in order that your zeal for us might be made known to you before God.* ¹³ *In this we have found consolation.*

^{13b} *In addition to our own consolation, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his mind has been set at rest by all of you.* ¹⁴ *For if I have been somewhat boastful about you to him, I was not put to shame, but just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved true as well.* ¹⁵ *And his heart goes out all the more to you, as he remembers the obedience of all of you and how you welcomed him with fear and trembling.* ¹⁶ *I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you.*

REPLAY