

# **SORROWFUL REPENTANCE ALWAYS LEAVES EVIDENCE**

## **The Trail of Repentance**

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

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Have you ever read through a portion of Scripture and wondered what the personal application for that passage was in your life? Or maybe, what the point was in including it in the Bible at all? I must admit that in my years as a believer, and then one actually ministering to people, that this passage was one that I had read and just went past on more than one occasion. And then one Sunday morning I heard a sermon; and it wasn't just a sermon, it was God speaking through His Word to my heart and mind. Many of the notes provided this morning are from that sermon that Pastor Ron presented several years ago. This passage has become so important in many ways, but especially as I have had the opportunity to minister to many individuals and families as they work through the challenges that come with real life and the relationship we value and cherish.

Have you ever had to say you were sorry? Has there been a time in your life that you knew you had sinned and needed to say and do something about it? Would your answer to both of these questions be "yes," and do they actually apply to you this morning?

## REPENTANCE: A DIFFICULT BUT NEEDED PROCESS

2 Corinthians 7:8

- Repentance = A change of mind which causes a **change** of **actions**; or to think so differently that actions were changed.
- The **trail** of repentance is always accompanied by **sorrow** and **pain**.
- This godly sorrow always:
  - Is in keeping with **God's will**.
  - Is without **regret**.
  - Is because of **salvation**.
- The “trail of repentance” presented in this passage normally involves a **lifestyle pattern** of consistent sin.

### THE ANSWER

I John 1:9

- The **confession** described in this passage is the **first step** of true repentance.
- The trail left behind is the **evidence** that **personal repentance** is real.

Note: Real to whom?

## **THE EVIDENCE: THE TRAIL OF REPENTANCE**

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

1. Earnestness = An eagerness to make things right. An urgency to restore and repay.
2. Vindication of Yourself = Literally means “a reasonable defense.” It is a strong desire to clear a person’s reputation by making sure that all who know of the sin now know of the godly repentance. This also includes a strategy to prove oneself trustworthy.
3. Indignation = To be outraged over the sin and its damage to others; to hate the sin that caused such grief.
4. Fear = A reverential respect of God. Also, a great “fear of displeasing” God.
5. Longing = A strong desire to see godly relationships restored.
6. Zeal = A passion to jealously guard righteousness and hate sin that destroys it.
7. Avenging of wrong = A strong desire to see justice done and to make restitution for the sin done. To accept the consequences of sin and not try to avoid them.

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- Are you in need of confession of sin this morning (James 5:16)?
- Is there a brother or sister in Christ that you need to approach due to a clear pattern of sin in their life?
- Are you still hurting over sin that was committed against you, or somehow impacted you, and are not sure what you should be thinking or looking for?