

What does godly repentance produce in those who have it?

2 Corinthians 7:11: "For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea what indignation, yea, what fear, yea what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

The church sorrowed after a godly sort, in a godly manner; your sorrow was Godward, saith Paul, you acknowledged that you had sinned against God, you handled the matter of sin in the church, and you repented.

Once that happened, the effects of it were unmistakable.

What carefulness it wrought in you...

If you recall back to 1 Corinthians 5, this sexual sin that was happening in the church, by a church member was being tolerated. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

How had this man's sin affected them as a church? It hadn't affected them at all! They were "puffed up" (full of pride & unmoved by this sin in one of their own members). There was no sorrow or mourning over this sin in the church leadership or in its members, and they had taken no action to deal with this man or even to remove him from the church.

BUT NOW, after they sorrowed to repentance, or as Paul wrote in (V11); after ye sorrowed after a godly sort and acknowledged your sins... After that...

It caused a carefulness in you... it brought about a speed and diligence IN YOU and a HASTE to deal with this sin without delay. Beloved, when God reveals ANY SIN to us, the King's business requires haste! Don't delay to make speedy dispatch of it.

Yea, or moreover, what clearing of yourselves...

How did they clear themselves? By dealing with this sin in this man, and then by confessing and forsaking their own sins as a church, (by apologizing) and by communicating this to the Apostle Paul. It was his sin, but it was also a church-wide sin for allowing it.

"What clearing of yourselves" is the Greek word, "apologia". What "cleared them" from the guilt of their sin was their genuine and heartfelt apology or their confession to, first and foremost to God. And then, they confessed to Paul that they had dealt with this sin, both in the man, and in the church!

2 Corinthians 2:6-11, John 3:20-21

Yea, what indignation...did godly sorrow produce/cause in them...

This is, I believe one of the most desirable effects of genuine repentance!

There was anger and indignation in their own hearts toward themselves for sinning against God and allowing this sin to continue in the church of Christ. Job 42:6

Yea, what fear, dread of sin, but also what reverence for God was begotten in them, by God and in their repentance!

What dread and what terror it caused in the church at Corinth; the Greek word here is "phobos", like our English word Phobia. You know people have "phobias" about certain things that strike terror in them... Well, the Corinthians now had "sin-a-phobia". They feared sinning against God!

O that the commission of "one sin" against God would strike fear and a holy terror in every one of our hearts beloved; if we only knew how terribly abhorrent sin is to God! Psalm 2:11, Proverbs 8:13, 14:16

But it also caused a holy reverence for God in their hearts, that they might never again treat God with such lightness and disrespect! Psalm 89:7

Yea, what vehement desire...what godly sorrow it produced in them..

What Paul meant by this was (it seems to me, by what we studied today) was their earnest desire and longing to see Paul face to face and to show him that their hearts truly were changed. 2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 1:14

Yea, what zeal that godly repentance brought forth in you...

Godly zeal and fervency of mind came forth from you toward God, and for His honor and glory, and also zeal and fervency of heart and mind to live in holiness and godly fear both personally and as a church. 2 Corinthians 7:1

Yea, what revenge or what vengeance!

I think THIS REVENGE was in reference to the Corinthians who were NOW ready (in their hearts) to "revenge all disobedience and sin" out their lives by godly sorrow and repentance toward God for their sins and by obedience to Christ.

There should be in each of us a HOLY VENGEANCE against sin and wickedness in our hearts... 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Finally, although the sin was not in every member of the church, it affected the whole church, like the sin of Achan...

When one member had sinned, all the members were affected by Achan's sin; and so, one unconfessed and continuing sin in one member of this will affect the whole body.

A little leaven will leaven the whole lump!

But now, in restoration of this one member, the whole church benefited and rejoiced and was instructed, to the glory and honor of Christ!