Complete Confidence through Christ

2 Corinthians 7:5-16

1. Intro
   1. How do you respond to a challenge?
   2. How do you respond to correction?
   3. A Godly response is one that produces change, humility, and rejoicing.
2. Text
   1. Recap
      1. We are together in death and life
      2. Make room in your hearts for the people of God.
      3. But also remember, we are to leave room for God to work in our lives.
   2. Very personal notes from Paul to the church.
   3. Vv 5-9
      1. Difficult times come, we should expect it
      2. During tribulation and trial we find challenges that can grow us, or ruin us
      3. The situation in the world and the church: fighting without, fear within.
   4. Vv 10-13
      1. Godly grief produces salvation
         1. Greek word ‘soteria’
         2. Only possible translation is salvation, deliverance, rescue
      2. Godly grief produces a response
      3. Godly grief brings us closer to the Lord…NO REGRETS
         1. The word for this is beautiful: ‘ametameletos’
         2. Negative prefix “a” and the word that can also be used for repentance
         3. So…Godly grief leads to repentance that develops a relationship that brings confidence and relationship with Christ!
      4. Godly grief does not push us away from the thing that restore us
      5. Beware of worldly grief, it can and will destroy
         1. The word here is ‘thanatos’
         2. Deadly, or death is the only translation
         3. This is one of the huge differences between the church and the world.
   5. Vv 14-15
      1. Boasting and rejoicing in the working of God
      2. Recognize God at work and let your confidence build.
3. Point
   1. Godly Grief
      1. Produces:
         1. Repentance
         2. Salvation without regret
         3. Earnestness
         4. Eagerness
         5. Righteous indignation
         6. Reverent fear
         7. Longing
         8. Zeal
         9. Lack of condemnation
      2. Worldly grief produces death
      3. Godly grief restores dependence upon our Lord
      4. The contrast:
         1. Judas was sorry for what he did, but it destroyed
         2. Peter was sorry for what he did, but was filled with power, after a season of eating bitterly.
      5. Being sorry is not repentance and it does not bring comfort.
   2. Corporate Comfort
      1. Comfort in the fellowship of believers
      2. Titus was a blessing to the brothers.
      3. When times are tough, the comfort we find in the brotherhood is a blessing.
      4. What is the thing that brings comfort to the body?:
         1. Earnestness for the cause of the gospel
         2. Eagerness to be what God would have you be.
      5. Good news from Corinth through Titus allowed Paul some glimpse of how they were responding to the first letter...
         1. they were sorry for how they had been living
         2. And it brought joy
      6. This godly sorry brought relief to a troubled Paul
      7. Corporate Comfort comes through Godly Grief found only in repentance and restoration.
   3. Complete confidence
      1. What do we have confidence in?
         1. The working of God
         2. The truth of scripture
      2. What should we lack confidence in?
         1. Have no confidence in the flesh
         2. Have no confidence in the wisdom of man
      3. Faith is built by confidence, and growing in faith is the production of growing confidence.
      4. So then complete confidence builds a house of faith on a sure foundation.
      5. Marking successes along your spiritual journey will allow you to grow completely confident.
      6. Complete Confidence as it leads to Christian Ministry during Corona:
         1. God is not done with us yet
         2. We are not waiting for things to return to normal
         3. We will be more outwardly focused than ever
         4. Major changes are inevitable; we will embrace it
4. Close