

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 7:1-16)

1. Is it right for a Christian to maintain some level of sin in his or her life?

No: *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Corinthians 7:1).*

- **Matthew 5:48, John 8:1-11, Romans 6:1-2, I Corinthians 15:34, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 1:4, Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 1:28, I Thessalonians 4:7, II Timothy 2:19, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:13-16, I John 1:7-2:1, I John 3:8-10, and Revelation 3:2.**
- In fact, when you put this in context notice what you get: *“(14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).*

2. Was Paul able to confidently say he had done nothing wrong to anyone?

Yes: *“Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man” (II Corinthians 7:2).*

- Obviously he had wronged people in his sinful past (**Acts 7:51-8:3, Acts 9:1-2, Acts 22:4-5, Acts 26:9-11, I Corinthians 15:9, Galatians 1:13, and I Timothy 1:12-16**).
- Past - forgiven sins; are not a part of one's present being (**Ephesians 2:1-5**).
- Now, Paul is living justly among all (**I Thessalonians 2:10**).

3. Was Paul working to condemn the Corinthians?

No: *“I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you” (II Corinthians 7:3).*

- **I Corinthians 4:14-15 and II Corinthians 13:10.**

4. In times of tribulation, what brought comfort to Paul and Timothy?

The coming of Titus and the news he brought concerning the Corinthians: *“(4) Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation. (5) For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. (6) Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; (7) And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more” (II Corinthians 7:4-7).*

- Paul’s boldness to the Corinthians (**II Corinthians 3:12**).
- Paul had been troubled in not knowing where Titus was (**II Corinthians 2:13**).
- Good news regarding brethren in comforting (**I Thessalonians 3:6-9**).

5. What kind of sorrow did Paul work to bring to the Corinthians who had sinned?

Godly sorrow: *“(8) For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. (9) Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. (10) For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (II Corinthians 7:8-10).*

- Worldly sorrow doesn’t bring about good (**Proverbs 12:25, Proverbs 17:22, Proverbs 15:13, and II Corinthians 2:7**).
- Godly sorrow brings repentance (**Job 42:1-6, Ezekiel 20:43, Luke 15:11-32, and James 4:6-10**).

6. Did the sorrow Paul brought to the Corinthians produce anything good?

Yes: *“(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. (12) Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you. (13) Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all” (II Corinthians 7:11-13).*

- They mourned in a way they hadn’t in the past (**I Corinthians 5:2**).
- Anger, fear, desire, zeal, etc. affected them (cf. **II Samuel 12:1-23**).
- Seeing these changes brought comfort to Titus and therefore to Paul and Timothy (**Matthew 18:11-14**).

7. Did Paul have any shame of anything he said in regard to the Corinthians?

No: *“For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth”* (**II Corinthians 7:14**).

- Paul had boasted about the Corinthians (**II Corinthians 8:24**).
- Paul was not a man given to telling lies (**Romans 9:1** and **II Corinthians 11:31**).

8. Did the church in Corinth readily accept Titus?

Yes: *“And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him”* (**II Corinthians 7:15**).

- By Titus being in Corinth, they were able to see his inward affection that he has toward them as love is shown through action (**I John 3:16-17**).
- Paul previously had concerns about the Corinthians receiving faithful preachers (**I Corinthians 16:10-12**).
- Fear and trembling have everything to do with obedience (**Psalms 2:11**, **Philippians 2:12**, and **Hebrews 12:28-29**).

9. Did Paul have any confidence in the Corinthians?

Yes: *“I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things”* (**II Corinthians 7:16**).

- He had confidence in what they could do in all things based on what they had done (cf. **Hebrews 5:12-6:9**).
- Fear in another (**II Corinthians 12:19-13:2**).
- You can have confidence in that someone will do what is right while at the same time knowing you have to do something to ensure such occurs (i.e. **Philemon 21**).