

# 2 Corinthians 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you**—Idou gar auto touto to kata Theon lypēthēnai posēn kateirgasato hymin spoudēn (ἰδοὺ γὰρ αὐτὸ τοῦτο τὸ κατὰ θεὸν λυπηθῆναι πόσῃν κατειργάσατο ὑμῖν σπουδῇ, "behold this very thing—your godly grief—what earnestness it produced in you"). Spoudē (σπουδῇ, "earnestness/diligence/zeal") implies urgent action, not passive remorse. Paul lists seven evidences of genuine repentance:

1. Apologian (ἀπολογία, "clearing of yourselves/defense")—not self-justification but vindication through corrective action.
2. Aganaktēsēsin (ἀγανάκτησιν, "indignation")—moral outrage at sin they previously tolerated.
3. Phobon (φόβον, "fear")—holy reverence for God and perhaps concern for Paul's apostolic authority.
4. Epithēsin (ἐπιπόθησιν, "vehement desire/longing")—restored affection for Paul.
5. Zēlon (ζῆλον, "zeal")—passionate commitment to righteousness.
6. Ekdikēsēsin (ἐκδίκησιν, "revenge/punishment")—church discipline against the offender (2:6).

**In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter—**

En panti synestēsate heautous hagnous einai en tō pragmati (ἐν παντὶ συνεστήσατε ἑαυτοὺς ἁγνοὺς εἶναι ἐν τῷ πράγματι, "in everything you demonstrated yourselves to be pure/innocent in the matter"). Hagnous (ἁγνοὺς, "pure/innocent") doesn't mean they never sinned but that they dealt with sin decisively when confronted.

Repentance restores moral standing.

## Historical Context

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The specific 'matter' (pragma) likely involved the offender from 2:5-11, possibly the incestuous man (1 Cor 5) or another challenger to Paul's authority. The church's initial complicity or passivity made them culpable. Their seven-fold response—earnestness, defense, indignation, fear, longing, zeal, discipline—demonstrated comprehensive repentance. Ancient shame-honor cultures avoided public admission of wrongdoing; the Corinthians' transparency showed gospel transformation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Which of these seven evidences of repentance am I most tempted to skip when convicted of sin?
2. How does 'indignation' toward my own sin differ from worldly self-hatred or shame?

3. What does the church's corporate repentance teach about communal responsibility for tolerating sin?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰδοὺ,	γὰρ	αὐτὸ	τοῦτο	τὸ	κατὰ	θεὸν	λυπηθῆναι
<b>behold</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>selfsame thing</b>	<b>this</b>	G3588	<b>after</b>	<b>a godly sort</b>	<b>ye sorrowed</b>
G2400	G1063	G846	G5124		G2596	G2316	G3076
ὕμᾱς,	πόσῃν	κατειργάσατο	ὕμῃν	σπουδὴν	ἄλλ'		
<b>that</b>	<b>what</b>	<b>it wrought</b>	<b>in you</b>	<b>carefulness</b>	<b>yea</b>		
G5209	G4214	G2716	G5213	G4710	G235		
ἀπολογίαν	ἄλλ'	ἀγανάκτησιν	ἄλλ'	φόβον	ἄλλ'		
<b>what clearing of yourselves</b>	<b>yea</b>	<b>what indignation</b>	<b>yea</b>	<b>what fear</b>	<b>yea</b>		
G627	G235	G24	G235	G5401	G235		
ἐπιπόθησιν	ἄλλ'	ζῆλον	ἄλλ'	ἐκδίκησιν	ἐν	παντὶ	
<b>what vehement desire</b>	<b>yea</b>	<b>what zeal</b>	<b>yea</b>	<b>what revenge</b>	<b>! In</b>	<b>all</b>	
G1972	G235	G2205	G235	G1557	G1722	G3956	
συνεστήσατε	ἑαυτοὺς	ἀγνοὺς	εἶναι	ἐν	τῷ	πράγματι	
<b>things ye have approved</b>	<b>yourselves</b>	<b>clear</b>	<b>to be</b>	<b>! In</b>	G3588	<b>this matter</b>	
G4921	G1438	G53	G1511	G1722		G4229	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 14:18** (References God): For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

**2 Timothy 2:15** (References God): Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**Psalms 2:11** (Parallel theme): Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**2 Corinthians 7:7** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Hebrews 4:1** (Parallel theme): Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

**Acts 17:16** (Parallel theme): Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

**Ephesians 4:26** (Parallel theme): Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

**Ephesians 5:11** (Parallel theme): And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

**Romans 11:20** (Parallel theme): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: