

2 Corinthians 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance—Nyn chairō, ouch hoti elypēthēte alla hoti elypēthēte eis metanoian (νῦν χαίρω, οὐχ ὅτι ἐλυπήθητε ἀλλ' ὅτι ἐλυπήθητε εἰς μετάνοιαν, "now I rejoice, not that you were grieved but that you were grieved unto repentance"). Paul distinguishes pain as means from repentance as goal. Eis metanoian (εἰς μετάνοιαν)—the preposition indicates purpose/result: sorrow that leads to metanoia (μετάνοια, "change of mind/repentance").

For ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing—Elypēthēte gar kata Theon (ἐλυπήθητε γὰρ κατὰ θεόν, "you were grieved according to God"). Kata Theon means "in a godly way" or "according to God's will." Hina en mēdeni zēmiōthēte ex hēmōn (ἵνα ἐν μηδενὶ ζημιωθῆτε ἐξ ἡμῶν, "that you might suffer loss in nothing from us")—Paul's correction brought gain, not damage. False teachers wound to control; true shepherds wound to heal.

Historical Context

Greek culture valued honor and shame deeply. Public rebuke risked social humiliation and fractured relationships. Paul's letter caused temporary shame but avoided permanent spiritual 'damage' (zēmioō, financial/spiritual loss). The Corinthians' willingness to accept public correction over private compromise demonstrated genuine conversion from pagan honor-codes to gospel values.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do I respond to correction—with defensive self-justification or humble self-examination?
2. What 'godly sorrow' am I currently experiencing, and is it leading me toward repentance or mere regret?
3. When I correct others, is my goal their spiritual profit (avoiding 'damage') or my personal vindication?

Interlinear Text

νῦν	χαίρω	οὐχ	ὅτι	ἐλυπήθητε	ἀλλ'	ὅτι	ἐλυπήθητε	εἰς
Now	I rejoice	not	that	ye sorrowed	but	that	ye sorrowed	to
G3568	G5463	G3756	G3754	G3076	G235	G3754	G3076	G1519
μετάνοιαν·	ἐλυπήθητε	γὰρ	κατὰ	θεόν	ἵνα	ἐν		
repentance	ye sorrowed	for	after	a godly manner	that	in		
G3341	G3076	G1063	G2596	G2316	G2443	G1722		
μηδενὶ	ζημιωθῆτε	ἐξ	ἡμῶν					
nothing	ye might receive damage	by	us					
G3367	G2210	G1537	G2257					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 15:7 (Repentance): I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Acts 20:21 (Repentance): Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 38:18 (Parallel theme): For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

Ecclesiastes 7:3 (Creation): Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.