

**THE PATH TO BUILD AND
REPAIR RELATIONSHIPS**
Genesis 25:27-34

INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains all things that pertain to life and godliness, preserved by the Holy Spirit for our instruction. Careful study holds practical, life changing insights for the child of God. Whenever we open the Bible, it's good to ask the Lord why the text is written. Genesis 25:19-34 explains how Esau despised his birthright and sold it to Jacob for a bowl of stew. Before we move on, Esau's life will teach us another lesson, concerning true repentance. We will learn **The Path To Build And Repair Relationships**. So vital, beloved.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 25:24-34 several times, focusing on family dynamics as Esau and Jacob are born and grow into mature men. Esau despised his birthright, a sober warning about the sin of neglect in disregarding our great salvation. Genesis 27 tells how he lost the blessing he sought from his father. The New Testament gives additional insight into this sad character. See **Hebrews 12:16-17**. Esau an immoral, godless man led by his flesh. Verse 17 says he wanted to inherit the blessing, but was rejected, "**for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears**". Did Esau really repent? There were tears, but tears may only be sorrow over consequences, not shame of character and decisions made. True repentance means to turn – a turn in thinking and then the will and actions must follow. **Matthew 3:8, Acts 26:20**. This is a work of the Holy Spirit as conviction of sin is required for true repentance to occur. **John 16:8**.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

In this study, we will observe characteristics that show true repentance from **2 Corinthians 7:8-11**. Let's turn there and begin.

I. 2 Corinthians 7:8-11. Read this text several times to establish context. Concerning a previous letter from Paul, Titus brings back a good report of how the Corinthian church responded to their sin, showing evidence of true repentance. That letter was quite harsh, and Paul had regretted how he expressed himself. But the effect of Paul's words brought godly sorrow, and in that he has been comforted and rejoiced.

II. 2 Corinthians 7:10. Contrasting godly sorrow and sorrow that world understands. Think of the examples of Peter and Judas. Sorrow of the world is only feeling, and produces death. But godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation – it's turning away from sin, turning towards God, and reconciling with the hurt party.

III. 2 Corinthians 7:11. Seven evidences can be observed in this verse - not a checklist, but showing how the Corinthians walked **The Path To Build And Repair Relationships**. This resulted in reconciliation and peace. Godly sorrow brought a new pattern of behavior. Beloved, each point deserves careful consideration as the Holy Spirit teaches. *Selah*

1. **Diligence** – not careless or casual, but voluntarily exposing the sin inside, being completely honest. **Psalm 32:1-5**.
2. **Clearing of yourselves** – not covering up, but willing to go through the process of accountability and rebuilding of broken trust.
3. **Indignation** – under the burden of sin, now convicted and unable to brush it aside; this leads to leaving the sin and receiving grace.
4. **Fear** – recognizing broken relationship with God must be restored. **Psalm 51:17**. Then comes joy and peace. **Psalm 51:7-12**.
5. **Vehement desire** – longing to restore and repair damaged relationships. Recognizing damage caused, this may take some time.
6. **Zeal** – being hot towards God, desiring a life of holiness and righteousness. Also, being hot against sin and what is wrong.
7. **Vindication** – exacting a right level of discipline. When a person is truly broken, he understands and even welcomes this.

CONSIDER Godly sorrow produces brokenness and creates the right conditions for reconciliation.

- Reconciliation with God for personal salvation. **2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2, Romans 5:6-11, Colossians 1:21-22**
- Reconciliation with God for sin that separates from Him. **Isaiah 59:1-2, James 4:8-10, 1 John 1:9**
- Reconciliation with others – family, friends, Christian brothers and sisters. **2 Corinthians 7:8-11.....**

PRAY

- Pastors and teachers covering in the sanctuary while Pastor Scott and tour group is in Israel
- Israel Trip with Pastors Scott & Bil Gallatin – the group traveling from several fellowships together
- Upcoming CCFL events – Dr. Mark Lisle 3/26, Mike McIntosh 4/9, Wes Bentley 4/23, Marriage Retreat 4/7-8
- Various Bible studies – Foundations Class, Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- School of Ministry – students, Pastor Tony, Billy Pauly and his Monday Foundations class
- Praise the Lord for WZXV and the effect this ministry has on upstate New York and worldwide. Pray for Pastor Jeff