

MBC C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
WEEK 6 - 11/14/21

Listen to, Learn about, and Love on on another

Please share a situation in your life where you felt sorrow or regret because of a hurt you caused someone or a wrong you did that involved another. How did you deal with it?

Leaders below are definitions for:

Sorrow (noun) is a “deep distress, sadness, or regret especially for the loss of someone or something loved.” (Merriam-Webster, accessed 11/12/21, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sorrow>)

Regret (noun) is “sorrow aroused by circumstances beyond one's control or power to repair.” (Merriam-Webster, accessed 11/12/21, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/regret>)

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- 1) Reflecting on Pastor Randy’s sermon on 11/14/21, read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Also recall that repentance is an acknowledgement of sin against God.

How would you describe the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?

Leaders below are examples of:

Godly Sorrow

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (2 Cor. 7:10, NIV)

7:10 repentance. Turning from sin, a sincere decision to forsake a specific sin (or sins) and begin to obey God. Here, the term does not

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specifically refer to initial repentance that must accompany true saving faith (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 26:20), but to a turning from sin in the life of a Christian.

leads to salvation. “Salvation” here means not initial conversion, but growth and progress in the Christian life. Ordinary Christian growth will include times of profound sorrow for remaining sin.

worldly grief. Regret and sorrow of different kinds that do not seek forgiveness in Christ.

Worldly Sorrow

24 Then Saul admitted to Samuel, “Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord’s command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. 25 But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the Lord.”...30 Then Saul pleaded again, “I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the Lord your God.” (1 Samuel 15:25-26, 30, NLT)

15:24, 25 At last Saul begins to accept responsibility (“I have sinned”), though he still blames the people for initiating the unfortunate events (“I feared the people and obeyed their voice”). On the surface, Saul’s confession sounds adequate, but against the background of Samuel’s warnings in 12:14, 15, his admissions lead not so much to a possibility that there will be reconciliation as to the certainty that he will be “swept away” (12:25). Saul will offer a second, more candid confession in v. 30.

15:26 I will not return with you. Samuel’s refusal to return with Saul suggests Samuel is not satisfied with the sincerity of the confession as a whole (v. 30 note).

15:30 honor me. Saul’s real concern becomes clear in this his second confession (cf. vv. 24, 25 and note). As Samuel seems already to suspect (v. 26 note), Saul is less concerned with being reconciled to the Lord than with finding honor before the elders of “my people.” In return for this honor, Saul offers to do obeisance before the Lord “your” God. (ESV, Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/12/21,

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<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+samuel+15&version=NLT>)

- 2) What is one important truth you've learned from the sermon about forgiving yourself?

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

- A) Read Philippians 3:13-15 and recall from Pastor Randy's sermon that this passage relates to the idea of "Rest in the completeness of God's forgiveness." What is your understanding of this passage and to "Rest in the completeness of God's forgiveness"? How do you accomplish this?

Leaders hint:

God forgives all our sins Col. 3:13 "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins." (NLT) And through our salvation we have His peace, "then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7, NLT)

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12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. 15 Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. 16 But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. (Philippians 3:12-16, NLT)

V 12–14: REACHING Paul honestly admits he has a long way to go, but has learned to leave the past with God, press on with the present, and reach on into the future. He wants to lay hold of that which God has for him, and for which Christ has laid hold of him. His concern is to answer the 'upward call of God in Christ Jesus'. Only when the past is dealt with, and Christ is known in the present, can Paul have confidence and determination like this.

V 15–16: REVEALED With this mindset, Paul tells the Philippians to build on what they have already learned in the knowledge that God will reveal to them other lessons which they need to learn. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 11/11/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Phil.+3%3A13-15&version=NLT>)

- B) Read John 21:15-17. Each time Jesus asked Peter if he loved him He followed it up with a command of action for Peter to follow. Why do you think Jesus spoke to Peter in this way instead of emphasizing that He had forgiven Him for betraying Him?

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Leaders hint:

Jesus wants to know if Peter is ready to work for Jesus rather than that of a fisherman. What did Jesus accomplish by his death on the cross? What does forgiveness mean according to scripture? (past, present, or future.) What did Peter do in Acts 2?

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. 16 Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. 17 A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.

21:15 Simon, son of John. Jesus used this name at the beginning of His solemn declaration in response to Peter's confession (Matt. 16:17).

do you love me more than these. It is possible to construe this question in several ways. "Do you love Me more than these others love Me?"; "Do you love Me more than you love these others?"; "Do you love Me more than you love these nets and fish?" (cf. v. 3 note). The Greek verb translated "love" in Jesus' question changes when the question is raised the third time (v. 17), and Peter's answer has this second verb each time. Some have thought that there is a difference intended in the use of the two verbs. This is possible but not necessary, for two reasons. First, John interchanges these verbs elsewhere in His Gospel. Second, other differences of wording in this conversation do not seem to indicate a difference of purpose. For example, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep" are equivalent.

21:17 the third time. Peter was grieved not because of the change of wording in this last question, but because Jesus repeated the question itself three times. Perhaps Peter was reminded of the three times he had denied Christ (13:38; 18:27). Whether Jesus

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intended such a reminder or not, He was giving Peter an opportunity to confess his love and to reaffirm his calling to follow Christ. With this knowledge Peter calls Jesus the “chief Shepherd” (1 Pet. 5:4).

2) **Application:** Discuss what steps in the process could you take this week to accept God's forgiveness.

3) **Prayer:** “Lord, teach us how amazing your forgiveness is toward us. Help us to be quick to repent when we have sinned, quick to embrace your forgiveness, and quick to get back to the work you have called us to. Amen.”