

No Regrets

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From time to time all of us need to pause and take stock of our lives. We need to evaluate how things are going relationally and spiritually. This was the essence of David's prayer in Psalm 139:23-24...

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, are you courageous enough to look back over 2006, and pray this prayer? Do you have regrets? How have you dealt with them?

The premise of today's message is that we can have regrets, and live a life of no regret. Let's talk about it.

REGRETS AND WISDOM

There is no person who lives without regrets.

We learn wisdom more from our mistakes than we do from our successes.

Hindsight is always 20/20. The challenge is to move forward so that the "failure" becomes the wisdom from which we grow and create success.

It's so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and say the opposite.

--Sam Levenson

REGRETS WITH MAJOR CONSEQUENCES

These are the regrets that will ruin our lives, take away our happiness, and destroy our destinies.

These are the regrets caused by **sin**.

You can put these regrets into two categories:

1. Failure to **love God** as we should.
2. Failure to **love others** as we should.

Matthew 22:36-39, Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NIV)

We have two options when it comes to dealing with these regrets.

1 John 1:6-9: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet ***walk in the darkness***, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we ***walk in the light***, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all un-righteousness.

1. Hide in the darkness of **self-denial and delusion**.
2. Walk in the light of **honesty and confession**.

GOOD REGRET BAD REGRET

2 Corinthians 7:10, Distress that drives us to God...turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets.

Failure is an **action** not an **identity**.

Peter's restoration in John 21 shows us that regret is replaced by the confession of love.