

# Life-Giving Apologies

Proverbs 24:16 for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. NIV

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—<sup>9</sup> yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup> Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <sup>11</sup> See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. NIV

## **SOCKS / Apology tips:**

### **Be Specific.**

- Be specific about offenses
- Be specific about motivations and heart matters if you can.
- Be specific about understanding hurts you caused.

What you are trying to communicate is: I get it.

Proverbs 18:13 To answer before listening— that is folly and shame. NIV

### **Own it.**

### **Communicate change.**

### **Keep on point.**

### **Say “sorry”.**

**Response:**

**Say, “I forgive you.”**

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. NIV

**Give grace with poor apologies.**

Proverbs 19:11 A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense. NIV

**Tips:**

**Don’t gossip.**

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. NIV

Proverbs 26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. NIV

**Get a mediator.**

1 Corinthians 6:1-6 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? <sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! <sup>4</sup> Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? <sup>5</sup> I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? <sup>6</sup> But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! NIV