

SINCERE REPENTANCE

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. (NASB)

“Repentance is an effect of faith: for who that believes not that God exists, can have "repentance towards God"? Repentance is sorrow for sins committed; but it is more. It is a resolution to forsake them; but it is more. It is actual "ceasing to do evil, and learning to do well." This is repentance unto life," or what is truly called Reformation. Such is the force of the command, "Repent, every one of you." It is not merely, Be sorry for what you have done wrong; nor is it, Resolve to do better; nor even, Try to amend your ways: but it is actual amendment of life from the views and the motives which the gospel of Christ exhibits. Gospel repentance is the offspring of gospel light and gospel motive, and therefore, it is the effect, and not the cause, of belief of the testimony of God.” A. Campbell We must amend our lives or die trying.

I. CONFESSION IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH REPENTANCE.

A. Confession, to be sure, is to be enjoined by every Christian. But confession, by itself, is of no heavenly value.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (NASB)

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (NASB)

B. Confession must be followed by repentance. God insists that forgiveness follows repentance.

Luke 17:3-4 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." (NASB)

II. REGRET IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH REPENTANCE.

A. Judas was plenty sorry for what he did, yet he did not truly repent.

Matthew 27:3-5 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See [to that] yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. (NASB)

B. Sorrow for sins committed is certainly a vital part of Biblical repentance. But there is a Godly sorrow contrasted with a worldly sorrow.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to [the point of] repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to [the will of] God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (NASB)

III. REPENTANCE INVOLVES A TURNING FROM SIN BACK TO GOD.

A. There must be a complete 180 degree shift in our life's direction. Goals are readjusted.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [that is] Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come. (NASB)

IV. THREE THINGS INVOLVED IN REPENTANCE.

- A. Repentance involves a change of intellect. It includes a knowledge of sins -- a conviction of personal sins committed.

Isaiah 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Job 42:6 Therefore I retract [abhor myself], And I repent in dust and ashes. (NASB)

Luke 5:8 But when Simon Peter saw [that,] he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (NASB)

1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost [of all.] (NASB)

- B. Repentance involves a change of emotions. There must be Godly sorrow for we have broken the law of our heavenly Father.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (NASB)

- C. Repentance involves a change of will. This is a determination to forsake sin. A wholehearted decision to forsake sin.

Genesis 4:7 "If you do well, will not [your countenance] be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (NASB)

V. AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN REPENTANCE IS RESTITUTION.

"True repentance is, then, always consummated in actual reformation of life. It therefore carries in its very essence, the idea of restitution. For no man can cordially disallow or reprobate his sinful course of life, who does not redress the wrongs he has done, to the utmost limit of his power. To God he can make no restitution, only as he refunds to his creatures, whom he has injured. If, then, any one is convicted in his own mind, that he has injured the person, character, or the property of his neighbor, by word or deed, and has it in his power, by word or deed, to undo the evil he has done, or to restore what he has unjustly taken away, he will certainly do it, if his repentance be according to either the law of Moses or the gospel of Christ." A.C.

- A. To make restitution is to make up for wrongs committed. To return stolen articles; To restore broken relationships; To redress past injuries. These are to be done as far as possible?

Numbers 5:5-8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6 "Speak to the sons of Israel, 'When a man or woman commits any of the sins of mankind, acting unfaithfully against the LORD, and that person is guilty, 7 then he shall confess his sins which he has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong, and add to it one-fifth of it, and give[it] to him whom he has wronged. 8 'But if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution which is made for the wrong [must go] to the LORD for the priest, besides the ram of atonement, by which atonement is made for him. (NASB)

Luke 19:8-9 And Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. (NASB)

Acts 19:18-20 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and [began] burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. (NASB)