

GODLY REPENTANCE

Deut. 30:11-20 Commandments of God not hidden

1. Knowledge of what sin is:
 - a. How serious it is, damaging to our lives, relationships, etc.
 - b. How full of peril it is.
 - c. How displeasing it is to God.
 - d. How exceedingly sinful it is.

2. Knowledge of what we are by nature:
 - a. That we are born with a sinful nature.
 - b. Must repent or be forever lost.
 - c. That all are commanded to repent.

- * Through or by repentance, we'll see our own lives, thoughts, deeds, that we are sinners before God and have no excuse.
- * Millions of people acknowledge they sin, and they hate sin, but claim it does not condemn them.
- * They can condemn practices in others and allow it within themselves.
- * Call the sins of others by their names, but their own sins by false, beautiful names.

Rom. 2:16-24 In the day when God shall judge secrets of men

1. Those that know the truth, tell others the truth, but practice it not.
2. To those who are young in the Word, they appear wise.
3. Call their sin by some other name. Give some examples.

II Cor. 13:5 Examine Yourself

1. Look with both eyes - see yourself as God sees you.
2. Reprobate is worthless. Does it fit? Are we working for the Lord or self?

I Cor. 9:24-27 I myself should be a castaway

1. Are you living a life for Jesus, or is your witness rejected because of your life?

Ex. 33:30-32 They hear thy words but do them not

1. Is it always someone else's fault?
2. Somebody else always does worse.
3. Never willing to take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

What repentance really is: Composed of three elements:

1. INTELLECTUAL ELEMENTS: a change of view includes recognition of sin as involving personal defilement and utter helplessness.

Does not mean the experience of sin:

Ex. 9:27-30, 34

Hardened Pharaoh

Josh. 7:20

Remorseful Achan

I Sam. 15:24, 30

Insincere King Saul

Matt. 27:3-4

Remorseful Judas

- * None of these confessions were sincere. They were just sorry they got caught.
- * Many in New Testament churches today have some type of repentance.
- * This intellectual element causes a change of mind about God. God is seen in a different light. There is a change of mind about the Bible, about Christ, about Heaven and Hell.

2. EMOTIONAL ELEMENT: Change of feeling. Becomes sorry he sinned against God. Begins to see himself as the enemy of God. Sees sin as hateful in itself.

- * True repentance does not think of consequences. It does not worry about other men and what they might do.
- * This causes him to become determined to exercise the third element of repentance.

3. VOLUNTARY ELEMENT: Change of purpose. An inward turning from sin / to seek pardon, forgiveness and cleansing.

Luke 13:3

Except ye repent

Romans 12:2

Minds changed towards sin

- * Man today doesn't seem to understand what sin is and how long the effects of sin last. A New Testament (N.T.) church is God's agent on this earth for upholding the truth.

Numbers 15:30-31

Despised the Word = To regard as contemptible, worthless, scorn

- * Sin is rebellion to the Lord. It destroys lives. The effects of sin last a lifetime and maybe even an eternity.

I John 3:4

Sin is the transgression of the law

1. Transgression: To pass beyond, over limits, to violate.
2. No matter the humanistic reason, to go against God's will is sinning.

I Sam 15: 1-3, 7-11, 18-26, 35 Saul goes part way in obeying the Lord

1. Many of God's people are like Saul. We put our own interpretation on the commandments of God.
2. Saul believed he had obeyed. God said he sinned.
3. Because God would not accept Saul, neither would Samuel.
4. Saul never truly repented. He was just sorry he was caught.

II Chron. 15:2

He will forsake

II Sam. 6:1-13

David's incorrect transportation of the Ark

1. David, a man after God's own heart, was bringing the ark home.
2. They were not carrying it as the Lord had commanded. They had a better way.
3. Verse 8, David is mad because God killed Uzzah who was trying to save the ark. Why get mad at God's people for upholding the truth?
4. Why do we get mad when God keeps his promises and we break ours?

Ex. 32:1-10, 19-28

Aaron builds a golden calf

1. God's people have the idea, "Well, if enough people are doing it, it must be OK".
2. Sin always seems to be the fault of somebody else.
3. Part of true, Godly repentance is taking responsibility.
4. We all need to stop assuming some things and take accountability.

Is. 3:12

Children are their oppressors

Is. 5:20

Call good evil and evil good

Is. 29:13

Removed their heart far from me

Prov. 16:25

There is a way that seemeth right

1. We must look at things from God's point of view, not our own.

Is. 55:7-9

Let the wicked forsake his way

1. Repentance: Turning away from, yet there is more to it than just simply turning away from something.
2. Your thoughts: If you look at something and you desire for it, you have not truly repented.
3. Feeling bad is not repentance. Feeling guilty is not repentance.
4. True repentance brings forth a heart change of thoughts, attitude, and behavior.

Sometimes you need to see it.

- * When we see sin as God does, we will be less likely to commit it.
- * Sin angers God. It breaks his heart. It makes Him sick and repulses Him.
- * Sin is sin to God. But as God deals with sinners and sin, he punishes differently.
- * Divorce is a sin, so is murder; yet the punishment for these two sins is different here in the flesh.
- * God gives man opportunity to repent; either saved back to righteousness or lost to salvation.

II Peter 3:9

The Lord is longsuffering

1. God's desire is for all to come to repentance.

Luke 15:11-21

Came to himself

- * Treating somebody who has sinned as if nothing ever happened hinders them in their ability to get things right with God. God treats them differently.

Prov. 13:15

The way of the sinner is hard

Deut. 11:26-28

Blessing and a curse

Deut. 13:3-9

No pity

II Cor. 7:8-10 Godly sorrow worketh repentance

1. To truly repent, one must have a Godly sorrow.
2. Same condition it took to be saved is the same to have sins forgiven.
3. Feeling bad and being sorry you are a lost sinner won't get you saved. Just as feeling bad and being sorry you have sinned doesn't mean you have repented.

II Sam. 12:14

Occasion to enemies of the Lord

Luke 22:60-62

Peter wept bitterly

John 21:1-3, 15, 21-22

Peter goes fishing - takes brethren with him

Luke 22:31-32

When thou art converted

- * To repent is to flee the other way. It makes you sick what you've done to God. You have no desire to ever do it again. The mere thought of it grieves and sickens you in your heart; never do it again.

I Peter 2:11

Abstain from fleshly lust which war against the soul

1. Abstain = to completely remove yourself from something.
2. Not to be around, socialize, look at, desire, etc.
3. Samuel abstained from King Saul.

Ps. 32:5

I acknowledge my sin unto thee

1. When we truly repent of something, there is open acknowledgment. There is complete openness and accountability.

Ps. 38:18

I will be sorry

Prov. 28:13

Whoso confesseth and forsaketh

1. Just confession is not by itself repentance.
2. Mercy from God comes only after confession and forsaken. (Godly sorrow)

II Chron. 7:14

If my people which are called by my name

1. In order to have forgiveness, God put forth some conditions that must be met.

- * Repentance and conversion to somewhat together.
* Conversion is a real, true change of a person's heart. Until you've been converted, you have not repented.
* Saying "I'm sorry" and feeling bad is not repentance.
* God knows our hearts. We must see fruits.

Matt. 3:7-8

Bring forth fruit, meet (proof) for repentance

Matt. 7:15-20

By their fruits, ye shall know them.

Luke 23:39-43

Lord remember me.

Is. 5:14

Hell is ready.

Is. 14:9

Hell stirreth.

- * The result of Godly repentance is to be pardoned.
* The sinner receives this pardon the moment he acknowledges his sin and cries out to the Lord for mercy.
* To be pardoned means to be forgiven.

Eph. 1:7 Redemption through His blood

1. Redemption comes the moment we ask Christ for forgiveness.

Eph. 4:18 Blindness of your heart

1. Those whom are lost, your alienated from the life in Christ.
2. Because of ignorance, the blindness of your heart.

Ps. 51:1-4, 12-13, 16-17 David's prayer of repentance

1. As a sinner, lost or saved, one must realize you've sinned against God.
2. True forgiveness, which comes after Godly sorrow, requires a broken and contrite heart.
3. That comes only after you see sin from God's point of view.

Ps. 34:18 The Lord is nigh unto them

1. Contrite: broken, crushed, collapsed.
2. Realize no hope other than Christ.

Rom. 10:8-10, 13 If thou shalt believe with thy heart

1. True salvation lies within the heart - one must believe with the heart.
2. True repentance lies within the heart - true peace lies in repentance.

Matt. 11:28-30 Rest unto your souls

1. God wants to give you rest, peace.
2. But, it must come His way.

I John 5:11-13 God has given to us eternal life

1. Do you have this peace?
2. God said you can know right now.

Is. 41:13 I will help thee.