

4. The shape of repentance

Jesus saves! - Session 13

It is not primarily about “externals”

- Remorse is not repentance - e.g. Judas (Matthew 27:3ff), Joel 2:12-13
- ... Though true repentance will often require concrete and specific actions – e.g. Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10)

Repentance will not leave us in our sins

“Repentance reminds us that if the faith we profess is a faith that allows us to walk in the ways of this present evil world, in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, in the fellowship of the works of darkness, then our faith is but mockery and deception. True faith is suffused with penitence. And just as faith is not only a momentary act but an abiding attitude of trust and confidence directed to the Saviour, so repentance results in constant contrition.” John Murray

Repentance is a tearing of the heart

Joel 2:12-13, Psalm 51 (and 2 Samuel 12)

... that leads to Christ

Repentance

Discuss:

Which of these statements is true? Tick... then discuss!

“Repentance is...

- saying sorry
- unpleasant but necessary
- a change of behaviour
- a joyful thing
- something we need to do
- a gift of God
- feeling sorrowful for sin
- less fun than sinning

Introduction

Effectual call (God does it - we are passive)	→	Regeneration (God does it - we are passive)	→	Repentance and faith (Our response - by God's grace we are ACTIVE)
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- Regeneration *always* produces repentance and faith.
- Repentance and faith cannot be separated.
- Repentance and faith are necessary, but not meritorious.
- Repentance and faith are things that WE DO

Westminster Shorter Catechism, “Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after new obedience.”

1. Repentance: key Scriptures

Luke 24:46-47, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Acts 2:37-38, "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 5:31, "God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

Acts 11:18, "When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life"."

Acts 20:20-21, "how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ"

Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God..."

Joel 2:11b-13, "For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it? "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Psalms 51

Psalms 32

2. Our need for repentance

We are made to LOVE GOD

- Exodus 20 / Mark 12
- Deuteronomy 6

Sin is loving other things INSTEAD of God

- Genesis 3:6, "good... delight... desired."
- James 1:15, "Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

3. Jesus came to save us from our false loves

Forgive us our sins... and change our hearts

His gift:

- Acts 5:31, 11:18
- "Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace" (WCF 15.1)