

Things God Does Not Know
God Has No Answer for Sin and Life-Transformation Other than Repentance
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 27, 2014

Repentance is essential for holy living. As Christians we should be life-long repeneters!

What Repentance is Not:

1. **The Salvation Army Guy with the Bell Response**
2. **The Black Mail Perspective Response**
3. **'Aw, Shucks!' Response or the Humor Response to Conviction**
4. **The Oprah Winfrey Response to Conviction**

What Repentance Is:

The Greek word for 'Repentance' in the Bible is the word *metanoia*. It means to change one's mind or purpose.

"Repentance is not a case of trying your best to get rid of all the sin in your life and put things right. What repentance means is this: the sinner, conscious of his guilt and aware of God's mercy in Christ, turns from his sin to God. The repentant sinner finds himself loathing and hating sin and longing to live in obedience to God." *Christian Handbook*, Peter Jeffery, p. 155

Biblical repentance is BOTH a turning away from sin and to God - with empty hands, making no demands!

Distinguishing Marks of true repentance:

I. You Start Owning Up to Your Sin instead of Covering Up Your Sin

Genuine repentance takes full responsibility for the sin, and begins to see it as God sees it. It stops the 'Blame Game.'

Psalms 51 shows us what true repentance looks like – where David owns up to his sin of adultery with Bathsheba.

Psalms 51:1-4 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out **my** transgressions, wash **me** thoroughly from **my** iniquity, and cleanse **me** from **my** sin. For I acknowledge **my** transgressions, and **my** sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge."

One of the proofs that your repentance is genuine will be your willingness to openly confess your sin. You stop worrying about your own image and who knows and what people think about you. There's a shift where you become extremely God-conscious instead of people conscious! And that makes you humble, which means you get grace!

Proverbs 28:13 "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

II. You Start Seeking God for Mercy instead of just Thinking He Owes it to You

Isaiah 55:6-7 "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

So many people today think God's mercy and forbearance is His job. That He owes it to us. That it's our right to get mercy and forgiveness from God whenever we want it – regardless of our attitude.

This is what the Puritans called 'sinning with a high hand' – thumbing your nose at God's commands and planning to just breeze into his presence and cash in on the whole mercy thing.

There's no guarantee you'll see Him or find Him after you've sinned (Isa. 55:6). There's no guarantee that you'll be able to repent because sin hardens your heart.

Hebrews 12:15-17 “Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.”

2 Timothy 2:24-26 “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

III. You Start Going Hard after God instead of Deeper into Self-Pity and Sorrow

This passage spells out what going hard after God looks like:

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

Biblical repentance has a strong dose of 'Get up and GO' in it... not just sit there in WOE.

IV. You Fix Your Eyes on Christ & His work on the Cross instead of Keeping Your Nose Pressed Up Against the Window of Your Heart ~ *obsessing over remaining sin*

You get excited about your Savior and you start looking to HIM more than you obsess over your SIN.

Titus 2:13-14 “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

“Though we can often point to a lack of amputation or a failure to remain accountable to someone locally or lack of time in the Word as the problem the truth is that the practical application teachings in our courses of Radical Accountability, Amputation and Appropriation are in and of themselves of little lasting value without the fourth and most important one that for now we can call '**Radical Adoration**'. *Your God Is Too Safe*, by Mark Buchanan, quoting Shon Bruellman, p. 172

Radical adoration! That's at the heart of biblical repentance! Genuine repentance keeps the radical adoration of Jesus Christ at the center... not sin! Genuine repentance makes knowing Christ the focus.

Glance at your sin – fix your eyes on your Savior!

Ephesians 3:17-19 I pray "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

Homework

1. Download Jim Elliff's article, *The Unrepenting Repenter* – available on the GFC Facebook page, GFC Twitter feed, and Pinterest page. Links to social media are available at graceky.org.
2. Set aside some time alone with God to work through the article and see if there are any areas you're guilty of falling into the trap of something less than genuine repentance.