
FOUNDATION STONE 1A

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

WHAT IS REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS?

Repentance is an about face from our sins and dead works, and walking in a new found life in Jesus Christ. It is not just saying that I am sorry for my wrongs. We must have an entire change of heart and mind which will result in a total change of direction in our life. John the Baptist said to those coming out to be baptized, that they should bring fruits of their repentance. He was in reality saying, show me the transformation of your life style. We by nature are not able to make this change on our own strengths. This can only happen when we accept Jesus as our only Savior and apply His shed blood upon our heart. Remember the Israelites applied the blood of a lamb upon the door posts of their homes in order that the death Angel would pass over. Symbolically we do the same when we repent and ask Jesus to become our Lord and Savior. If you are at all familiar with the account of Israel being in bondage in Egypt under Pharaoh, you will also remember that they needed to leave Egypt after they applied the blood to their door posts. We to must leave the sinful surroundings we lived in and follow a new life style.

REPENTANCE IS A COMMAND FROM GOD

Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Acts 17:30

Therefore having overlooked the time of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.

ACTS 26:20b

That they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

REPENTANCE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Acts 11:18

*When they heard this they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has **granted** to the gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”*

II Timothy 2:25

“With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.”

When God grants us repentance, we begin to see that our actions and attitudes are no longer a private matter. We no longer only hurt ourselves, but our sins hurt others and more importantly offend God. As we begin to understand this, we start to turn away from our own selfish ways and become more concerned with our relationship with God and others. We begin to see sin as God sees it.

WHAT AREAS OF OUR LIFE ARE CHANGED WHEN WE REPENT

We learned that repentance is a total change in mans thinking and actions towards God and others. There are (4) four basic areas of change. First **our emotions**, secondly **our will**, thirdly **our intellect** and fourth **our spirit**. When we repent, we are transferring our love and investment in ourselves back to God.

Matthew 22:37-38

*And He said to him, “**you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**”*

A) OUR EMOTIONS

True repentance includes Godly sorrow for our sins against Him.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, o God, thou will not despise.

True repentance is a deep humiliation before our God.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the high and the exalted one who lives forever, whose name is holy. I dwell on a high and holy place and also with a contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the heart of the contrite.

True repentance includes a sense of shame for the sins we have committed and we are ashamed of what we have made ourselves.

Ezra 9:6

And I said "Oh my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face unto you, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens.

B) OUR INTELLECT

We begin to recognize sin for what it really is. We realize that sin is our disobedience towards the word of God. We begin to see and understand that by our willful disobedience we separated ourselves from God.

Hosea 14:1-2

Return oh Israel, to the Lord your God, because you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, "take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips."

Luke 3:7-8

John the Baptist spoke these words! "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bring fourth fruits in keeping with your repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, we have Abraham for our father, for I say to you that from these very stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

Repentance also means that we begin to realize that we not only did wrongful things, but that we ourselves became sinful people. Just as the prodigal son in **Luke chapter 15 verse 17** came to his senses, we too must come to our senses and understand that we have to change the course of our life that is leading to destruction and turn to God by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Psalms 51:5-6

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

True repentance means that we begin to agree with God's judgments, that our ways are wrong and that we will no longer try to justify our position. Frank Sinatra sang a song titled "I'll do it my way". If we desire a place in God's Kingdom, our Song will be titled, "I'll do it God's way."

Psalms 51:3-4

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified when you speak and blameless when you judge.

C) OUR OWN WILL

Repentance involves the formation of a new purpose and determination. We deliberately turn away from sin and return to God. This is our own self will. First we must accept the moral responsibility of our actions and do not put the blame on others. We also can not blame God for the position we are in because of our own disobedience

towards Him. We need to be in agreement with God that we are our own free moral agents and are responsible as such.

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust, then when lust is conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Secondly, we must do something about our sin, and the character that it produces. We cannot simply resign ourselves to the helplessness of sin and the consequences that it leads to. WE need to make the decision to break away from our sin and old habits and turn to the mercy of God and receive a new lifestyle in Jesus.

Luke 15:18

I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "father I have sinned against Heaven, and in your sight.

Romans 13:12-14

The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lusts.

D) IN OUR SPIRIT

As we allow Jesus to change us in our emotions, intellect, and will by our willingness to cooperate with Him, He changes our spiritual condition and literally makes us "**new creatures**". We change from death to life as the Holy Spirit quickens us. Remember repentance is our response to Gods call, and regeneration is Gods response to our repentance!

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked, according to the course of the world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:13-14

For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 2:12-13

Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

HOMEWORK:

- 1) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DEFINE REPENTANCE?**

- 2) IN WHAT FOUR AREAS DOES REPENTANCE CAUSE CHANGE IN US? EXPLAIN EACH.**