

REPENTANCE

Scenarios: A shoplifter is caught, says "I'm sorry." A reckless driver causes accident, says "I'm sorry." One is caught telling a lie, says "I'm sorry." The question is "sorry for what?" Sorry for what was done? Sorry because of the consequences having to be faced? Wishing it hadn't happened? One may be sorrowful and humiliated, but not penitent.

SORROW

Defined: Mental suffering or pain caused by injury, loss, or despair.

Two kinds of sorrow: worldly sorrow and godly sorrow

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. 2Co.7:10

Godly sorrow is according to the will of God, rendering the heart humble, contrite, submissive; disposed to mortify every sin, and to walk in newness of life.

Worldly sorrow is according to the will of the individual. It promotes great emotional distress over what has been lost or has happened. Often it causes men to do desperate things.

FIVE ASPECTS OF REPENTANCE

Regret: To feel sorry, disappointed, or distressed about; look back with distress. When there is no regret, one feels self-acquitted.

Reform: To improve by alteration, correction of error, or removal of defects; put into a better form or condition. When there is no reform, there is a strong likelihood the deed will be repeated.

Remorse: Moral anguish arising from repentance for past misdeeds. Moral anguish is needed as a constant reminder of the seriousness of sin.

Repugnance: Aroused disgust or aversion; offensive or repulsive. A strong repugnance keeps it from appearing attractive again.

Restore. To bring back into existence or use; reestablish; to bring back to an original condition; to put (someone) back in a former position; to make restitution of; give back.

PENITENT, REPENTANCE

A change of heart producing a change in actions (involves regret). Mat.21:29-30

Action whereby one seeks relief from the consequences of wrong-doing. Psa.51:1-4

Fruit of repentance. Luk.3:7-10: "do"

Change (stop one, start another) Luk.3:13-14

Detesting what was done.

Restitution (when possible). Luk.19:8. (A thief can't keep what was stolen.)

Restore. Luk.15:11ff (Prodigal son sought to be reunited with his father.)

TRUE REPENTANCE

Turns one away from the path that leads to destruction.

Changes one's mind.

Changes one's attitude and actions.

Produces joy into heart.

Results in freedom from the guilt of sin, the practice of sin, and the consequence of sin.

REPENTANCE AND SALVATION

Based on faith opens the way to salvation.

Necessary to be saved. Luk.13:3, Luk.24:46-47, Act.2:38

Without it, true baptism is impossible, and one's faith is worthless.

Preached as part of the Gospel. Act.17:30-31

SO WHEN CONVICTED OF WRONG-DOING

Have all five aspects of repentance. 1, 2, 3 or 4 are not enough!

Remember, repentance may not be a household word or concept, but time and custom have not made it obsolete.