

The fruits of repentance

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Introduction: Why do people reject genuine Christianity?

- A. In order to find the favor of God a man must repent!
 - 1. How did Jesus and John begin their ministry? (**Mt 3:2; 4:17**)
 - 2. John knew the difficulty of repentance and how many were hypocrites in what they claimed that they were. (**Mt 3:7-8**)
 - 3. One brother said: “The bottleneck of conversion is repentance!”
- B. What if Jesus came here ? What would be His message for us?
 - 1. What was His message to the seven churches? Ephesus (**Rev 2:5**), Pergamos (**Rev 2:16**), Thyatira (**Rev 2:20-22**), Sardis (**Rev 3:3**), the Laodicean Church (**Rev 3:19-20**)
 - 2. We can easily become like the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. Those who have a great knowledge of God without repentance are often very harsh and dangerous..
 - 3. Maybe you should ask the question the disciples asked Jesus: “Is it I?” Remember that Judas also asked the question! (**Mk 14:19; Mt 26:22, 25**)

I. What is repentance?

- A. Repentance is brought about from a knowledge of God's will.
 - 1. God tells us what sin is. (**1 Jn 3:4; 5:17**)
 - 2. We are to repent of sin! (**Acts 8:22-23**)
 - 3. In order to repent we must know God's standard. We must know God!
- B. Repentance is preceded by godly sorrow. (**2 Cor 7:10**)
 - 1. Satan's substitute for this is worldly sorrow.
 - a. In worldly sorrow we are sad about the consequences or being caught.
 - b. Many have this kind of sorrow over their sin.
 - 2. Godly sorrow involves a complete focus on God. (**Psa 51:1-4**)
 - a. We are grieved because God knows. What if you do not know God?
 - b. If no one else knew we would still repent because we have grieved God.
- C. Repentance is a turning of the will. (**Mt 21:28-32**)
 - 1. There becomes a complete yielding to God and a desire to see it all. No more lies and deceit. (**Psa 51:5-7**)
 - 2. The will is actually crushed and replaced with a great humility.
 - 3. No one can have pride and repentance at the same time.
- D. Repentance has fruits that will follow. (**Mt 3:7-8**)
 - 1. This will involve restitution where possible.
 - 2. This will involve confession to those we have wronged.
 - 3. This will involve most of all, ones seeking the forgiveness of God. (**Psa 51:8-12; Acts 2:38**)
 - a. A common mistake we make is to baptize one before they repent!
 - b. A fruit of repentance is praising God and telling others about Him.

II. Three things that block repentance

- A. A dishonesty that refuses to see clearly admit wrong. (**Prov 12:15; 16:2**)
 - 1. Did the Laodicean Church want to see this? (**Rev 3:17**)

2. Do you want God's eye salve? **(Rev 3:18)**
 3. David did not appeal to the sins of others or tried to lay the blame on others. **(2 Sam 12:13; Psa 51:14)**
- B. A fear of the consequences of repentance.
1. Consider the man who confessed a murder after seeing the movie about Jesus.
 2. David's call to repentance involved strong consequences. **(2 Sam 12:7-12)**
 - a. David offered no excuses and accepted whatever God would do.
 - b. What if he had said, "What's the use of repenting?"
 - c. Real repentance will not focus upon the price that must be paid!
- C. A refusal to pay the full price of repentance.
1. We must surrender all that is dear to us and turn to God. **(Lk 9:23-24; 14:33)**
 2. We must learn and live a new way of life. **(Acts 19:17-20; Mt 3:7-9)**
- "To move across from one sort of person to another is the essence of repentance: the liar becomes truthful; the thief, honest; the lewd, pure; the proud, humble." - A. W. Tozer
3. Many accept that which is not repentance at all.
 4. We must live a life of repentance.

III. Are the fruits of repentance in my life?

- A. How do we view and treat other people? **(Lk 18:9-11)**
1. One characteristic of the Pharisees was the use of social exclusion of "sinners." **(Mt 9:10-11)**
 2. They did not hate the sin but the sinner.
 3. There are many who will punish other Christians socially because of others weaknesses and even because one is socially awkward.
 4. These actions tear down the work of God. **(1 Cor 12:20-25)**
- B. Am I willing to be tested? **(Jn 9:32-34)**
1. I have seen people harshly turn on the perceived faults of another in order to stop them from pointing out their sins. (Ex. Sending a brother to jail.)
 2. We are facing a trend in churches to preach a positive gospel.
 3. Some that write and warn others run from open study!
 4. Great arrogance can come from those who have a "position" to protect. Listen to Jesus' warning. **(Lk 12:1-3)**
- C. Is the joy and purpose of repentance in my life?
1. A fruit of repentance is praising God and telling others about Him. **(Psa 51:13-19)**
 2. One of the worst things you can do it take an unrepentant "Christian" to talk with the lost about salvation. **(Rom 2:17-24)**
 3. Evangelism will be a hunger for those with a repentant heart.

Conclusion: We need to understand and willingly pay the price of repentance.

- A. In Jesus' day there were many who would not. **(Jn 12:42-43)**
- B. Any consequences of sin can be borne if we know God is with us. **(Heb 13:5-6)**