

Acts 2: 36-38

New Testament Church

Part 9

# What Repentance Means

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# Introduction

- Chemical Make Up of H<sub>2</sub>O.
- Hydrogen and Oxygen
- Valuable Chemicals individually.
- But when combined:
  - Are life giving.
  - Need for basic existence.
  - Without it we die quickly

# Faith and Repentance

- Faith without repentance is like a corpse w/o a body.
- Looks alive, but in appearance only.
- 2 parts of Hydrogen required to be added to water.
- Faith is a good response to gospel, BUT
- Faith must be fused with repentance if remission of sins is to take place.

# Faith and Repentance

- “Faith that does not change your life will not change your eternity.”
- Repentance is more than a mere statement.
- Repentance is more than a merely “feeling bad” about your situation.
- Repentance is more than a feeling of guilt and shame about sin.
- Repentance requires doing it God’s way!!

# Components of Repentance

- **1. It involves a Change of Will in the Person.**
- It always involves free will or choice.
- Faith is the positive side of following Christ.
- Faith is experiencing Christ.
- Repentance is letting go of sin.
- Mark 1:21-24
- The demons had faith, but they resisted God's will and behaved in self destructive, harmful ways.

# Components of Repentance

- **2. Repentance Produces Wholeheartedness.**
- Gen. 19. The example of Lot's wife.
- Her faith was never completed by repentance.
- She failed to rid her heart for a longing for sin.
- Her indecision and delay cost her life.
- It is impossible to "half way" leave sin.
- Sin always overtakes when allowed to linger.
- Attempts to flee sin w/o forsaking the desire always fail!!!

# Components of Repentance

- **3. Repentance Improves Your Life.**
- Must break bad behavior for a more positive future.
- “Can’t have your cake and eat it too!”
- Most want a better life but don’t want to stop sinning!
- Repentance helps to redefine joy in our lives.
- It also reshapes our concept of pleasure.
- Renovating house = Renovating life.
- Phil. 3: 7,8.

# Components of Repentance

- **4. Repentance Requires Honesty.**
- Must honestly assess your life.
- Continuation in sin is self deceit and denial.
- True conversion occurs when we “Stop Kidding Ourselves.”
- We must honestly look at how our actions have hurt God and others.
- Those who truly decide to follow Christ will submit to His leadership.

# Components of Repentance

- We must be willing to order our lives after Jesus and follow His example.
- Obedience is always the end result of true repentance!!
- Compliance begins initially with baptism.
- Evidence is Godly worship and service to God.
- The fruits of repentance always shows up in our relationships.

# Components of Repentance

- **5. Repentance Revives Relationships.**
- Mark 5: 1 – 15.
- His behavior caused him to live in a graveyard.
- Sin also does this to us.
- His behavior also caused him to frighten and harm others.
- He was unfit to live around others.
- The influence of sin resembles demonic possession.

# Components of Repentance

- Today, those who surrender their minds to Satan begin to act accordingly.
- Mild case: Disrespect of others, vulgarity, and mistreatment of others.
- Severe case: Gossip, slander, abusiveness, railings, and violence.
- We often intensify these behaviors instead correcting them.
- Results in a history of destroyed relationships.

# Components of Repentance

- When people truly repent of sin, they relate more positively to others.
- They long to encourage and support instead of discourage and wound.
- Repentance puts us back in our right mind!
- It allows us to see clearly regarding how we look to God and others.
- It allows us to begin to put others before ourselves.

# Conclusion

- Repentance is more than a confession of sin.
- It is more than just an action motivated by feelings of guilt.
- It requires a change of heart.
- Heart meaning “Mind or Will.”
- It will then begin to produce fruits of repentance in our lives.

# Conclusion

- Examples of Fruits of Repentance:
- We stop sinning.
- Our speech becomes more wholesome.
- Our treatment of others changes.
- Our devotion to God improves.
- We become more faithful in attendance.
- We become more faithful in bible study.
- Our prayer life becomes more consistent and effective.
- We finally begin to take on the mind of Christ!!