SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 6

BIBLICAL REPENTANCE

INTRODUCTION:

REPENTENCE AT SALVATION (CONVERSION)

Mark 1:14–15; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Repentance at salvation is a God-given change of heart and mind (thinking) toward sin and God, in which a sinner recognizes his sin, turns from it, and turns to Jesus Christ in faith for forgiveness and salvation.

Faith in Christ and repentance are inseparable aspects of conversion. Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.

ONGOING REPENTENCE (SANCTIFICATION)

1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 7:9–11; Proverbs 28:13; Ephesians 4:22–24; Colossians 3:5–14

Ongoing repentance is the believer's continual, Spirit-enabled response to recognized sin, involving godly sorrow, confession, a genuine turning away from sin, and a renewed pursuit of obedience to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

How can you know repentance is genuine? - Jim Newheiser

1. God-focused, not self-focused. **Psalm 51:4a; II Samuel 12:13**
2. Hates the sin, not merely the consequences. **Psalm 32:5; Psalm 51:1-3**
3. Fully accepts responsibility, not self-protective. **Psalm 51:3; II Samuel 24:10**
4. Concerned for others rather than blaming them. **II Samuel 24:17; Philippians 2:3-4; Genesis 3:12; 1 Samuel 15:19-24**
5. Patiently accepts consequences rather than impatiently demanding trust and restoration. **Psalm 51:4; II Samuel 24:13-14; 1 Samuel 15:30**
6. Submits to discipline and accountability rather than criticizing the disciplinary process. **1 Corinthians 10:12; II Corinthians 7:8; Genesis 4:13**
7. Changed heart that produces fruit. **Psalm 51:6-12; Luke 19:1-10, 3:7-9**

GODLY SORROW vs. WORLDLY SORROW

A Biblical Comparison | 2 Corinthians 7:9–11 (NASB95)

Key distinction: Sorrow is not the same as repentance. Godly sorrow **produces repentance**; worldly sorrow does not

QUESTION	GODLY SORROW	WORLDLY SORROW
Primary concern	Grieves that sin dishonors God and wrongs others. **Psalm 51:3–4**	Centers on exposure, personal distress, lost reputation, or consequences. **1 Samuel 15:24, 30**
Response to correction	Receives reproof and allows it to bring a change of direction. **2 Corinthians 7:8–9**	May resist correction, justify conduct, or shift attention away from the sin. **1 Samuel 15:20–21**
Confession	Acknowledges specific sin without concealing it or blaming someone else. **Psalm 32:5; Proverbs 28:13**	Minimizes, excuses, conceals, or shifts blame to protect self. **Genesis 3:12; 1 Samuel 15:30**
Turning from sin	Confesses and forsakes sin; seeks renewed obedience. **Proverbs 28:13; Ephesians 4:22–24**	May regret the experience without truly forsaking the sinful way. **2 Corinthians 7:10**
Fruit that follows	Produces earnestness, zeal, a desire to make things right, and fitting deeds. **2 Corinthians 7:11; Acts 26:20**	May produce strong feelings or promises without the fruit described in verse 11. **2 Corinthians 7:10–11**
Toward other people	Takes responsibility for harm done and seeks appropriate restitution. **Luke 19:8; Philippians 2:3–4**	May prioritize regaining honor, approval, or trust rather than making wrongs right. **1 Samuel 15:30**
Consequences	Accepts just consequences while seeking God's mercy and restoration. **2 Samuel 12:13–14**	Is chiefly concerned with escaping shame, punishment, or loss. **Genesis 4:13; 1 Samuel 15:30**
Result	Repentance that leads to salvation without regret. **2 Corinthians 7:10**	Death rather than life-giving repentance. **2 Corinthians 7:10**

NOTE: This page should be read from the bottom to the top. Living God's way means putting away your self-centeredness and committing yourself to follow God's Word in spite of any feelings to the contrary *(based on Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:17)*. If you do this, God will bless you *(based on John 14:27, 15:11; Galatians 5:22-23; James 1:25)*.

- Realize abundant life, filled with God's peace and joy *(John 10:10, 14:27, 15:11, 16:33)*
- Experience Christlike character development through God's Spirit working within you *(II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23)*
- Rejoice always *(Philippians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:16)*, giving thanks in all things *(I Thessalonians 5:18)* and for all things *(Ephesians 5:20)*
- Pray unceasingly about everything *(Philippians 4:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:17)*
- Speak the truth in love *(Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:9)*
- Work heartily as unto the Lord *(Ephesians 6:7; Colossians 3:23-24)*
- Do everything without grumbling or disputing *(Philippians 2:14)*
- Continually live in a manner consistent with your calling in Christ *(Ephesians 4:1)*
- Count all trials as joy since God uses your trials to develop Christlike character in you *(Romans 5:3-5, 8:28-29; James 1:2-4)*
- Practice forgiveness and reconciliation *(Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14; Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13)* and return a blessing for any evil you might receive from others *(Romans 12:17-21; I Peter 3:8-9)*
- Continually show deeds appropriate to repentance *(Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20; Revelation 2:5; 3:3, 19)*
- Be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient *(Colossians 3:12)*
- Learn to love God's way *(John 3:16, 15:17; Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 13:4-8a; I John 4:11, 19)*
- Dwell in your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and praiseworthy *(Philippians 4:8-9)* and set your mind on things above instead of on things that are on earth *(Colossians 3:2)*
- Regard others as more important than yourself, as did Jesus *(Philippians 2:3-8)*
- Continually judge yourself biblically *(Matthew 7:5; I Corinthians 11:31)*
- Be controlled by the Holy Spirit *(Ephesians 5:18-20)* and the Word of God *(Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16)*
- Be obedient to the Word out of your love for the Lord *(John 14:15, 21)*
- Commit your ways to God unreservedly *(Proverbs 3:5-8; Matthew 22:37; II Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 3:17)* and deny self to follow Jesus *(Matthew 10:24-26; Luke 9:23-24)*
- In faith, pray for wisdom in all matters *(James 1:5-8)*
- Repent *(Proverbs 9:6, 28:13; Acts 26:20; II Corinthians 7:9-11; Revelation 2:5)*
- Confess specific, recognized sins *(Psalm 51:1-4, 6-10, 17; James 5:16; I John 1:9)*



(While a commitment of discipleship to Jesus Christ will be evidenced by specific and measurable steps of obedience to God's Word, the description of biblical living highlighted on this page is not intended to be exhaustive nor in a rigid sequence).

The UPWARD PATH (Comprised of Biblical Understanding, Hope, Change, and Practice)

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SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 6

MINISTRY PASSAGES

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

Philippians 2:12-13 — Believer's responsibility and God's work

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 — Godly sorrow produces repentance

10 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.

11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

Proverbs 28:13 – Confession and forsaking sin

13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes [them] will find compassion.

1 John 1:9 – God's is faithful to forgive

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

'The Doctrine of Repentance' by Thomas Watson — Free book link: https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/watson/The%20Doctrine%20of%20Repentance%20-%20Thomas%20Watson.pdf

SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 6

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the difference between being sorry about the consequences of sin and genuinely repenting of sin?

2. Consider 2 Corinthians 7:9–11. What evidence might distinguish godly sorrow from worldly sorrow?

3. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to acknowledge our sin without making excuses, minimizing it, or blaming someone else?

4. How does Proverbs 28:13 help us understand what God requires when we recognize our sin?

5. Consider a situation in which a Christian responds to another person with sinful anger. What would genuine biblical repentance look like?