

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN REPENTANCE? (Acts 17:30-31)

I. **Recognition.**

- A. The first thing involved in repentance is an acknowledgment that we have sinned.
 - 1. Many times, people want to deny that what was done was really wrong.
 - 2. We try to justify the things we have done instead of acknowledge them as being sinful.
- B. We need the attitude of the Psalmist (Psalm 32:5).
- C. When David was confronted with sin by Nathan, his response was "I have sinned" (2 Samuel 12:13).
 - 1. He did not try to blame someone else as both Adam and Eve did.
 - 2. He owned what he had done and took full responsibility for it (Psalm 51:3-4).
- D. When David acknowledged the sin in his life, God forgave him.

II. **Remorse.**

- A. When we sin, there needs to be regret and grieving over what we have done (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).
- B. Godly sorrow should be a powerful motivating factor.
 - 1. When we think of what God has done for us, and His view of sin, there ought to be sorrow every time we sin.
 - 2. Jesus hung on that cross to give us hope and every time we sin, we heap more sin upon His shoulders.
- C. The fact is, when we sin, God grieves.
 - 1. It should cause us great pain to know we have grieved our heavenly Father.
 - 2. We cause Him to hurt with our sins.
- D. We often tell our children when they do something wrong, that we are disappointed in them.
 - 1. We try to motivate them to do better so as not to bring disappointment to us as parents.
 - 2. What about doing better spiritually so we don't disappoint our heavenly Father?

III. **Resolve.**

- A. When sin occurs, we need to recognize it and have remorse for it.
- B. We then need to resolve that we won't commit that sin again.
 - 1. There has to be a change of mind.
 - 2. Romans 12:2.
- C. Repentance is something that is to be a total and complete change.
 - 1. It is not turning only slightly from it.
 - 2. It is a complete rejection of what we have done.
- D. It is a change of mind, that leads to a change of heart, that leads to a change of soul, that leads to a change of desire, that leads to a change of life.

- E. If there is not a complete change of actions brought about by godly sorrow, it is not true repentance.
 - 1. We are saying, to the best of our abilities, we will never commit that sin again.
 - 2. We are not saying, I won't do that for a while.
- F. We are completely turning our back on our sinful actions to stay away from them forever if possible.

IV. Reformation.

- A. When one truly repents, he or she can't stay the same.
 - 1. There has to be a change of lifestyle.
 - 2. There has to be a turning from that sin (Ezekiel 18:21-22; 28-29).
- B. The prodigal son is a tremendous example of this.
 - 1. He had been in sin, wasting his money on partying and having a good worldly time.
 - 2. He had to come to himself.
- C. When he did, he started thinking properly.
 - 1. His father's servants lived better than him and he realized that.
 - 2. He knew he had to turn from his present way of life and go back home.
- D. When he did truly turn from his actions, his welcome home was tremendous.
 - 1. His father hugged and kissed him.
 - 2. He restored him to his place in the home and threw a feast for him.
- E. This would not have happened if he had not come to himself.

V. Restitution.

- A. When we truly repent, we will make amends as far as possible.
- B. Zacceus said that of anything he had gotten wrongly he would restore fourfold.
 - 1. He was willing to make restitution for his sins.
 - 2. He was not going to keep what he had gotten wrongly.
- C. We need to make sure we first make amends with God.
 - 1. A relationship has been severed by sin.
 - 2. We need to make sure we give Him back our time, talent and treasure that we took from Him.
- D. We need to then make amends with whomever we have sinned against.
 - 1. Whatever we need to do to make things right with that person, we should be willing to do.
 - 2. Again, a relationship has been damaged and we should want to repair it by making those amends.

From an outline by Mark Posey