

True Repentance and its Impact

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (particularly in the NIV translation)

Go and be reconciled to the Person You Have Sinned Against

1. Confess Your Own Sin:

Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his sins does not prosper; but whoever confesses and forsakes them finds mercy"

- Address everyone involved.

Who has been involved that you need to address?

- Avoid words like if, but or maybe
- Admit specific sins
- Acknowledge the hurt you have caused
- Accept the consequences
- Ask for forgiveness and allow time
- Alter your behavior

2. Repent of Your Sin:

- Repentance involves the use of our mind, emotion and will
- There is significant emotion in the expression of godly sorrow that leads to repentance
- Repentance produces actions which are done in a spirit of humility
- These actions are rapid, done with diligence and have a serious purpose.
- They are undertaken with a sense of alarm or even fear over the seriousness of our sin
- Repentance results in biblical thinking which has a vehement desire to clear our conscience and make any restitution necessary.
- Repentance has a zeal to do what is right and a longing to see God honored

3. See What this Godly Sorrow Should Produce in You:

- what **earnestness**
 - having diligence and a serious purpose
 - diligence in executing a specific plan of repentance

- what **eagerness** to clear yourselves,
 - involves rapid actions
 - eagerness to have a clear conscience

- what **indignation**,
 - anger used to attack the problem not the person
 - anger directed toward the sin in our lives

- what **alarm**,
 - a fear or phobia of what sin can do
 - fear of the impact of sin

- what **longing**,
 - a vehement desire
 - longing to be free of the impact of specific sins

- what **concern**,
 - demonstrating zeal
 - zeal to gain victory over the specific sin in our lives

- what **readiness** to see justice done.
 - a willingness to make all restitution
 - readiness to make the necessary restitution

4. Make Specific Plans to Repent

A. Be Sure You See the Contrast of Godly Sorrow and Worldly Sorrow

- i. Godly sorrow leads to repentance and salvation (not just of our souls but also salvation from the power of sin in our lives)

- ii. Worldly sorrow produces regret that leads to death

B. Take Specific Steps of Obedience

- i. What specific sin in your life do you need to repent of?

What specific sins do you need to confess? Think about every sin that you've gotten tangled in through this event...

ii. Who is holding you accountable to change?

You will probably need a 'Team' of people... who could be on that 'Team'? Select people who will hold you to the biblical truth – and not allow you 'justify' yourself and to get by...

iii. Can you clearly communicate your purpose and plan to repent of specific sins?

Briefly describe your purpose and plan...

iv. Are you angry toward your sin? Are you using the energy from the anger to attack the problem and not other people?

v. How are you demonstrating fear toward falling into repetitive sin? See also Matt. 5:27-30 'Radical Amputation' What people, places, associations, objects, schedules, music, books, TV, etc. do you need to remove from your life to keep from sinning in this way again?

People

Places

Associations

Schedules

Music / TV / Books / Etc.

Objects – Cell phone? Palm pilot? Car keys? Credit cards?

Other?

vi. In what ways can people see now your zeal for overcoming sin in your life?

vii. What restitution for specific sin in your life do you need to make?

viii. Go through the specific 7 characteristics of repentance listed in 2 Corinthians 7:11 and define each one in your own words
