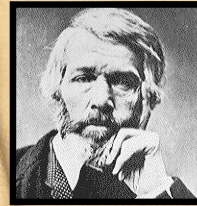


Repentance

is the ultimate acknowledgment that life is not all about me.

Thomas Carlyle

(historian, philosopher)



“Of all acts of man repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.”

What changes

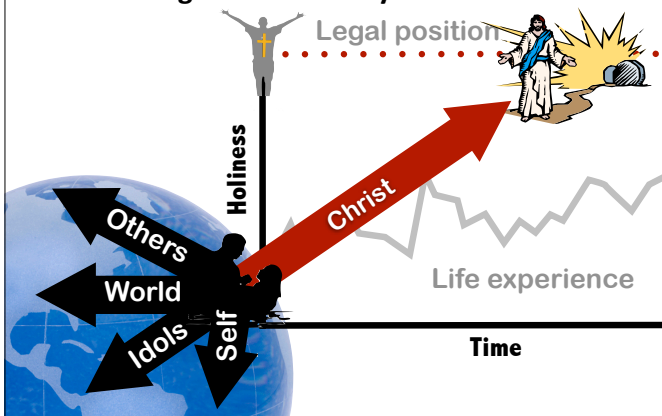
when a person becomes a Christian?

- ✓ **Some things will not change at all** - my past, circumstances, personality, etc.
- ✓ **Some things will change immediately** - my personal and positional relationship with God.
- ✓ **Some things will change over time** - character, sinful habits, choices, strengths, weaknesses.

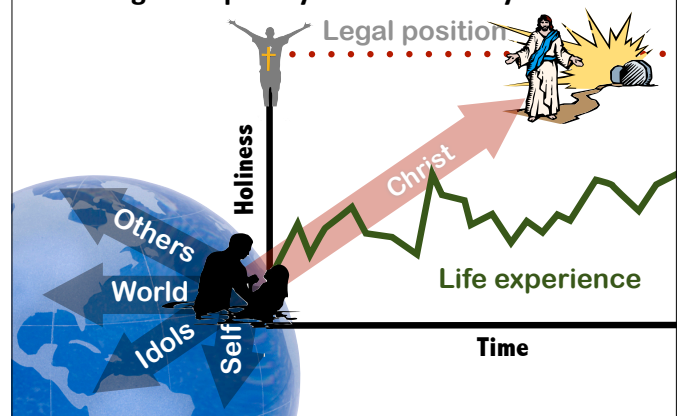
1. Our legal position in Christ has changed absolutely.



2. Our hope & direction in life has changed dramatically.



3. But our behavior in life may not change completely or immediately.



#1 REPENTANCE

is to be understood
in two contexts.

Luke 14
“²⁶ If anyone comes **to Me**, . . . ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come **after Me** cannot be My disciple.”

Repentance is coming TO and AFTER Christ.

coming
TO Christ



and following
AFTER Christ.

1. Strategic REPENTANCE



from
self



to
Christ

Turning from worldly hopes
to faith in Christ

Acts 26:18

“to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me”

Conversion to Christ through faith gives us our position in Christ.

2. Tactical repentance



from
sins



to Godly
living

Turning from specific sins so as
to commune with God and others.

Blaise Pascal

(1623-1662)



“There are only two kinds of men: the righteous, who believe themselves sinners; the rest, sinners who believe themselves righteous.”

2 Corinthians 12:21

"I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced."

Strategic REPENTANCE is not without need for repeated tactical repentance.



1 Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling,"

The Corinthians had REPENTED (strategically)

1 Corinthians 3:3

"For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"

but were in need of repentance (tactically)

REPENT

exchanging hope
in self
and the world
for the Cross of Christ



★ The sin of unbelief
★ Conversion

repent

letting go of worldly
attachments, attitudes,
& actions for
Kingdom living



★ Acts of sin
★ Communion

Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

REPENT

✓ **Apostasy** is
the reversal
of strategic
REPENTANCE.

✓ Strategic
REPENTANCE
need not be
repeated.

repent

✓ **Backsliding** is
the reversal of
tactical
repentance.

✓ Tactical
repentance
is repeatedly
needed.

*Water baptism
is about
conversion.*



*The Lord's Supper
is about
communion.*



***Both are about
repentance.***

#2

True Repentance

**is a change
from the inside
out.**

Repent

μετανοέω
metanoeo

meta - "after"
noeo - "to perceive"

"to renew or change the mind"



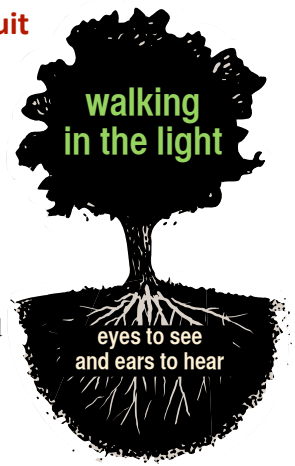
**Moral reform is the fruit
of a renewed mind.**

Matthew 6:22

"The eye is the lamp of
the body; so then if your
eye is clear, your whole
body will be full of light."

Romans 12:2

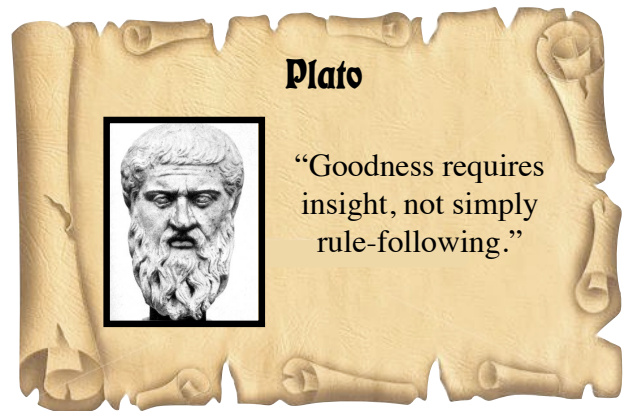
"And do not be conformed
to this world but be
transformed by the
renewing of your mind"



#3

True Repentance

is a commitment
to change
based on insight
from pain and love.



Plato

"Goodness requires
insight, not simply
rule-following."

Luke 15:11-32 **The Parable of the sons**

- ✓ Autonomy (leaving home)
- ✓ Worldliness (living it up)



Pain (feeling the heat)

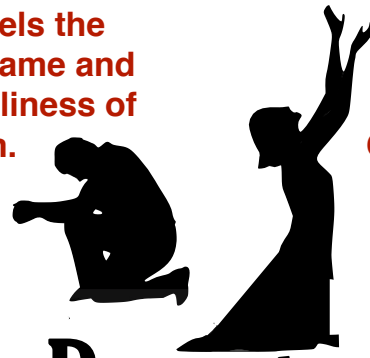
Insight (seeing the light)

Commitment (charting a path)

- ✓ Action (returning home)
- ✓ Reunion (experiencing grace)

**Feels the
shame and
ugliness of
sin.**

**Sees the
glory and
beauty of
Godliness.**



Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:9

“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that **you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.”

Sorrow (pain)
can have a hidden blessing.

#4

True Repentance
is replacement
of life in the flesh
with life in the Spirit.

False repentance

- ✓ **Relabel** the offense as a form of denial.
- ✓ **Repress** the guilt as a form of coverup.
- ✓ **Reform** the flesh through discipline.

True repentance

- ✓ **Replace** the flesh with the Spirit.

Hebrews 6:1

“not laying again a foundation of repentance **from** dead works and of faith **toward** God”

1.
Turn **from**
something -
false hope,
faith, love (the
world, flesh,
& Satan)



2.
Turn **to**
something -
true hope,
faith, love (the
King & His
Kingdom)

Acts 26

“18 to open their eyes so that they may turn **from** darkness **to** light and **from** the dominion of Satan **to** God,”

“20 that they should repent and turn **to** God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.”

1 Peter 3:9

“not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, **but** giving a blessing instead,”

Ephesians 4

“22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, **laying aside falsehood, speak truth**, each one of you, *with his neighbor*, for we are members of one another. 26 *Be angry*, and yet *do not sin*; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let him who steals **steal no longer**; but rather **let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good**, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.”

#5

True Repentance

calls for restoration.

2 Corinthians 2

“ 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.”

1. **Empathy with others** - Shared sorrow
2. **Empathy with Christ** - Shared love

“⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree - in order not to say too much - to all of you. ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. . . . ¹¹ in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

Satan works through

sin
shame

“You don’t
need God!”

“You are
unacceptable
to God.”



The Christian community has two responsibilities in the discipline of members.

1. **Convict** - It must rebuke a rebellious sinner. (address the sin problem)

True
Repentance



2. **Comfort** - It must restore a penitent sinner. (address the shame problem)