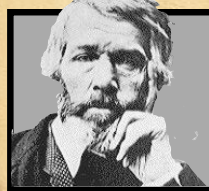




G.K. Chesterton

“Men do not differ much about what things they call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable.”



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.”

Mark 6:12

“They went out and preached that men should **repent**.”

What is the role of repentance in the Christian life and what does it consist of?

Acts 3:19

“**Repent**, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”

Repentance is turning to God with the result that our sins are forgiven.

What must I repent of to become a Christian?

	Change mind about Christ and self	Be willing to turn from all known sins at conversion	Be willing to keep on turning from all known sins	Turn from all known sins	Keep on turning from all known sins
Holiness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arminian	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Calvinistic	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lutheran	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Radical grace	Yes	No	No	No	No

Repentance

A technical distinction

Repentance that accompanies **conversion** to the Christian faith.

Repentance that accompanies **communion** within the Christian faith.

A dynamic dimension

The steps in the **process** of repentance.

The **expression** of true repentance

Repentance

a technical distinction

1. Strategic REPENTANCE



(the sin of unbelief)
Worldly hopes



Kingdom hopes

Conversion to faith in Christ

2. Tactical repentance



(Sinful ways)
Worldly attachments, attitudes, and actions



Kingdom living

Communion with God and others

Water baptism is about conversion.

The Lord's Supper is about communion.



Both are about repentance.

Hebrews 6

"¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we shall do, if God permits. ⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame."

Hebrews 6 (my paraphrase)

If someone is genuinely converted having turned from trusting in their own merits to placing their hope for eternal life in the work of Christ, and then falls into some sin, there is no possibility or need to be reconverted but only to press on and grow in faith and self discipline.

Saving faith

is more than
intellectual
assent

is heart felt
repentance
from our
dead works
to Christ's
finished
work

is less than
perfect
obedience

Hebrews 6:1

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

The Corinthians had REPENTED

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,”

and were in need of repentance.

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?”

Repentance
a dynamic
dimension



**“Insight” that leads to repentance
is not to be confused with:**

- Association with orthodoxy.

Matthew 23

“¹ Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ² saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.”

- Enforcing the rules.

“⁴ And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.”

- Looking devout.

“⁵ But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments.”

- Spiritual position.

“⁶ And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues,”

- Social respect.

“⁷ and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi.”

The dynamics of repentance #3 Yielding the Will

Luke 15

“¹⁸ **I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him,** “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.””

The dynamics of repentance #4 Taking the Step

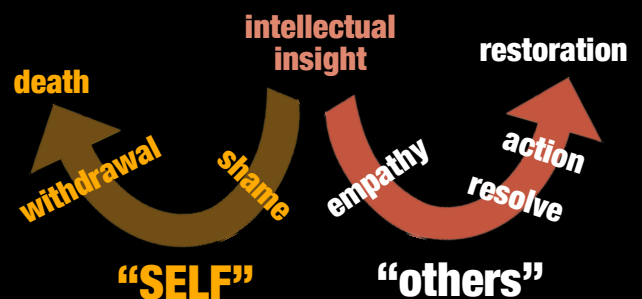
Luke 15

“²⁰ **And he got up and came to his father.** But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

The action steps of the Prodigal

1. He took the **initiative** to pick himself up and act on his commitment.
2. He came **to his father** not just his home.
3. **As soon** as he did this, he got a lavishly gracious response from his father.
4. He focused his confession on the disrespect for **God and his father**.
5. He **relinquished** all rights to restoration.

Intellectual insight can take two different paths:



2 Corinthians 7:10

“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.”

Confessional mistake #1

Minimizing the issue

- “I’m sorry, I slipped up.”
translation
“**This is no big deal.** It is a minor offense that would not upset normal people.”
- “I could have handled that in a better way.”
translation
“**I made a poor choice.** This is a style issue not a moral issue.”

Big mistake #2

Adding insult to injury.

- “I’m sorry IF I offended you.”

translation

“**You hypersensitive emotional cripple.** If you weren’t so touchy this would not have been a problem.”

- “Let me EXPLAIN what happened.”

translation

“**Anyone will excuse me once they understand.** The context will remove or at least minimize my culpability.”

Big mistake #3

Feeling your pain more than theirs.

- “I feel so embarrassed and ashamed.”

translation

“**It’s all about MY image.** My public reputation is ruined.”

- “How do you think I feel?”

translation

“**My feelings are the issue.** I am not really concerned with how it effected you.”

Big mistake #4

Self justification or tit for tat

- “You started this whole thing.”

translation

“**I’m sorry I lowered myself to your level.** If you don’t like it then don’t start it.”

- “I’m sorry, I’m not perfect.”

translation

“**Your expectations are out of line.** If you were more gracious and tolerant this would not be an issue.”

Big mistake #5

Demanding forbearance or forgiveness.

- “I know you understand.”

translation

“**This is no big deal.** You can surely absorb this mistake.”

- “Was this a problem for you?”

translation

“**I am surprised that you were so easily offended.** Gracious people would overlook this.”

10 Commandments of “I’m sorry”

1. What you do and what you say are both important. Don’t “check out” or run away.
2. Take the initiative in both word and deed.
3. Go to the right person(s).
4. Empathize with those offended.
5. Get to the point.
6. Explanations will sound like excuses.
7. Spell out what you feel you deserve.
8. Be willing to make restitution.
9. Be willing to suffer the consequences.
10. Keep it up as long as necessary.

Never say “I love you”
if you don’t really care.
Never talk of feelings
if they aren’t really there.
Never hold my hand
if you’re gonna break my heart.
Never say you’re going to...
if you don’t intend to start.
Never look into my eyes
if all you do is lie.
Never say “hello”
if you really mean “goodbye.”