

Repenting Doesn't Mandate Feeling Sorry

Repenting is not about feeling sorrow for what we've done or said, although feeling sorrow may be involved. Once we know a few things about repentance, we can adjust how we do it. (I've covered what we need to know in "Repentance from a Kingdom Perspective"¹.)

The big change in repenting comes once we get the revelation that all our sins are forgiven. Yes, ALL of them – past, present and future. They're all covered by the achievements of the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah (Christ). Apprehending knowledge that produces a paradigm shift where we're not weighed down by the knowledge of our sins.

Along with that is the knowledge that when we do sin, we can repent and then continue on living as a son without any penalty or loss. It's our societal and religious training which indoctrinates us into thinking of Father's justice from their perspectives. Society's laws say there must be punishment &/or reparation when someone breaks the law. Religion picks up on that and says that 'God'² must punish us for our sins, remove his presence from us and we must suffer some loss as a consequence. That's Old Covenant (OC) thinking. None of that is the way the New Covenant and the Kingdom work under Father's grace.

Repentance is determining to turn away from a sinful activity and doing things Father's way. It's an about-face for us every time we sin in any way. (And by the way, we actually sin unconsciously every hour of the day because sin is not coming up to Father's standard in every way.)³ We repent when we identify what we've done, renounce what it was, and determine in our heart to do things Father's way instead of what we did that time. We don't even need to say, "I repent", or anything else like it. That's because it's a heart attitude.

We definitely don't need to flagellate ourselves or become depressed about a sin or even fear that we've offended Father. We don't need to prove we are sorry, because what's needed is a change of heart or attitude, not a feeling. If there is a feeling, it should come from our love relationship with Father, that we haven't aligned ourselves with his desire. That's all.

We don't even need to tell him we're sorry. Our change of heart attitude is all that's needed, because Father looks at our heart, not our feelings or emotions. Of course, that's all under the proviso that we have changed our behaviour and are looking to control ourselves.

All that's probably quite new for some of us, but it's one of the wonderful facets of the New Covenant.

Mike Parsons also knows about this from what he's learnt from his interaction with Father. Here's what he's taught on the topic:

"There's a sort of mantra that evangelical Christians say: "You cannot be forgiven unless you repent." Now this is derived from a Latin, Roman Catholic understanding of what repentance is and out of a doctrine that uses a wrong translation of the Greek word which is 'metanoia'. Now the Latin translation of 'repentance' is actually a fabrication. It's not the right meaning of the word at all, but it works for controlling people in religion. 'Metanoia' in the Greek means 'beyond' or 'after', with God's mind. In other words, agreeing with God, agreeing with God's thoughts or mind. Now of course, that will change the way we think, because our thinking, when it isn't aligned with God's thoughts, obviously changes to align with God's thoughts.

So, there's a whole renewing of the mind process there. But there's nothing to do in that thing about 're-penance', doing penance. If you think of agreeing with God's thoughts, the Father has a vast

1 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Repentance-from-a-Kingdom-Perspective.pdf

SEE ALSO: "What is Repentance?" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/What-is-Repentance.pdf

2 – 'God': I use this term in inverted commas because 'God' is the generic term people use, while I don't any more. I have an intimate relationship with the members of the Trinity, so I refer to them by name out of relationship. Out of my oneness with them, I also refer to them as The Trinity.

3 – SEE: "What Really is Sin?" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/What-Really-is-Sin.pdf

number of thoughts about us and all of them are good. And again, I want you to get that. Think about that. Every thought that God has about you is a good thought – no bad thoughts, no angry thoughts, no thoughts of judgement or punishment, just blessing. God loves you unconditionally and he desires to bless you, and their⁴ thoughts about you are continually good. If we could just grasp that in fullness, it would change our whole lives.

So, 'metanoia' is sometimes expressed as a 180 degree turning around or change of direction. In one sense, there's merits to that, because if you're thinking one way about something and if you think the opposite, then you're turning completely and looking in a totally different direction. Ultimately that's really what it's about. But the implication in religious understanding of repentance is, "Yes, you turn around", and it's the turning around and going in a different direction or changing your behaviour which earns the forgiveness, rather than the change of behaviour follows in agreement with God's mind. When I agree with God's mind about me, I change. My mind is renewed, I'm deconstructed. Things are transformed, metamorphosed.

It's a powerful thing, but we've taught people, "You have to change your behaviour, then you can be forgiven." Repentance is linked to change of behaviour. Even worse than that, it's linked with being sorry and proving that you're sorry enough so you deserve forgiveness by some action or other. That's the Latin connotation to it, which is obviously linked with the confessional and a control system. To prove it, people went to absolute extremes. They would beat each other, they would kneel on glass, they would whip themselves, to say how sorry they were. How much deception and bondage is that, because they just don't know the fact that it's unconditional and they are already loved and they're already forgiven. So many people are trying to earn God's forgiveness, when it's a free gift.

So the Latin is linking forgiveness of sin with sorrow and penance. And not just penance, but 're-penance'. So you really must prove that you're sorry enough for God to forgive you by your repeated actions. Hence, people do 10 'Hail Marys' or whatever. As if one 'Hail Mary' not enough, let's say 10. Well, because it's 're-penance'. Do it over and over again, so you really, really prove that you're sorry. I don't think saying 'Hail Marys' really is much evidence that you're sorry at all. But in reality, we don't need to do anything, we just have to receive that forgiveness that's already ours.

Now, I'm not saying you shouldn't be sorry. There's nothing wrong with being sorry when we do something or hurt someone. Of course we're not going to take those things lightly, but towards God, the sorrow does not earn forgiveness."⁵

(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)

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26-7-2022

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

4 – The Trinity

5 – TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons 'Unconditional Love 4' www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4fjZ9w9YSI [23:50-28:07]