

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 37

Repentance  
(#7)

REPENTANCE

Evidence  
of  
Salvation

The three characteristics of genuine repentance?

1. **Abhorrence of sin** as being *against God*.
2. **Abhorrence of self** as the *willful agent* of sin.
3. **Actual change** in one's life, reformation.

Only a **SAVED** person can do all three of these.

You have to start with the first 2 characteristics

1. **Abhorrence of sin** as being *against God*.
2. **Abhorrence of self** as the *willful agent* of sin.

Until your **attitude** changes about sin and sinfulness, your **actions** *cannot* change.

The response of the saved person

- When a saved person becomes aware of his sin and sinfulness...

The **CHANGE** will occur.

The response of the unsaved person

- Unsaved people *won't* accept the seriousness of their sin and sinfulness...  
... *unless it's a distorted half-truth.*

Either way, the **CHANGE** will not occur.

The saved person will move beyond the awareness of sin and sinfulness.

3. **Actual change** in one's life, reformation.

Only a **saved** person:

- Will DO something about his sin and sinfulness.
  - He will make the necessary changes.
- Has the POWER to change.
  - He will rely on the Holy Spirit's power.

What types of changes?

His **HATE** and his **LOVE** will be reversed!

**BEFORE:**

- Love his sin (might not call it sin); hate righteousness.
- Love himself more than he loves God (= same as hate for God).

**AFTER:**

- Hate & abhor his sin as being against God; love righteousness instead.
- Hate & abhor himself as the willful instrument of sin; love God instead.

**DID YOU REALIZE** that certain types of HATE are good and praiseworthy?

The **FALSE GOSPEL** doesn't tell you that!



★ **HATE and LOVE are not always opposites!** ★

It all depends on the CONTEXT where the word "hate" occurs.

Sometimes "hate" is the only response a SAVED person can have!!!

- You cannot be saved without it. **EXAMPLE:**

"If anyone comes to me and does not **hate**\* his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.

(Luke 14:26 NIV)

- You must also hate everything that is false.
  - including the False Gospel, and anything else that lies about God and salvation.

\*Do not take this out of context! Further explanation is given on a later slide.)

There are *other* situations in which God forbids hate.

(Don't ignore this other "half" of the truth!)

**EXAMPLE:**

If someone says, "I love God," but **hates** a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we have not seen?

1 John 4:20 (NLT)

- Scripture clearly shows which situation is which.

**In the Luke 14:26 example:**

**There is a contrast between TWO VALUES:**  
1) **God** vs. 2) **family/self**

- **We LOVE our family** (as God requires us to do).
  - But every time we have to choose between family and God, we choose God.
- **"Choosing God"**
  - has to do with moral purity, integrity, obedience, holiness, etc.,
  - does not refer to many of the religious activities people tend to get involved in!

### A serious question to consider...

- When **people** tell us we should NEVER hate, and **Jesus** tells us that sometimes we should...

### WHO IS THE LIAR?

★ **Don't back away from such verses, even though others deny them.** ★

**Don't share in their sin!**

### LIVING THE REPENTANT LIFE.

**You will be different**  
from what you were before.

- You will be ashamed of your sin.

You're ashamed of what you used to do because it ended in death.

(Romans 6:21b GW)

- You will want to do things that are an expression of LOVE for God and neighbor.

### You will be different

You'll still have temptation and inclinations to sin; but...

- You'll hate them, and will fight them.
- You'll hate it when you give-in to them.

Because of this...

★ **Repentance will be an ongoing way of life.** ★

### You will be different

★ **You'll be willing to FORSAKE your sin, not just be sorrowful about it.** ★

- You'll be willing to RELY on **GOD's power** to do something about your sin and sinfulness.
- You'll grow **STRONGER** in your fight against sin in your life (with God's power).

 **KEY ISSUE:**   
Be serious in your response to sin!

- You cannot **love** and **hate** sin at the same time. **You must choose** one or the other.
- If you choose to stay in your sin, YOU HAVE NOT REPENTED!
  - **Don't deceive yourself!** You CANNOT love sin and be saved!

**ALMOST DONE!**

- One last issue, and we will have completed our focus on "REPENTANCE."



**Some things to BEWARE!**





**BEWARE:**  
**(1) Sorrow without repentance!**



We can hate the *consequences* (such as punishment) without hating the *sin*...

**BUT IF WE ARE UNWILLING TO FORSAKE OUR SIN, WE HAVE NOT REPENTED!**

- Such "repentance" is COUNTERFEIT  
– A WORLDLY sorrow, which leaves us still dead (eternally).

**Godly sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but **worldly sorrow** brings death.

(2 Cor. 7:10 NIV)



**BEWARE:**  
**(2) All talk... & no action!**



We can TALK about repentance all we want...

**BUT IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN, IT'S NOT REPENTANCE!**

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

(Luke 6:46 NIV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

(Matthew 7:21 NIV)



**BEWARE:**  
**(3) Complacency about sin!**



DON'T MAKE EXCUSES! **EXAMPLES:**

- **"I'm only human."**  
– This is *not* the issue. It ultimately places the blame on God, who created you as a human.
- **"I'm just a sinner."**  
– This is a true statement, but using it as an excuse doesn't take away your guilt.



**BEWARE:**  
**(4) Self-centered motives!**



- Don't go through the motions of "repenting" simply because of "rewards" you think you will get.  
– **EXAMPLES:** "Going to heaven" or "Keeping out of hell."
- This is a focus **on SELF** (and what *we* want),  
– rather than **on GOD** (and all the evil we have committed *against him*).

## Surprise! Motives are an issue!

WHAT?? Heavenly rewards ISN'T the #1 reason to repent??

**NO!!**



The #1 reason to repent is simply because:

**The God we have sinned against is WORTHY of our love!**



## **BEWARE:**

### **(5) Neglecting your salvation!**



**(Any part of it, including repentance.)**

- The salvation God offers you is GREAT
  - A firm foundation for eternity.
- See to it that you don't neglect it!

... how shall we escape [judgment] if we ignore such a great salvation?

Hebrews 2:3a (NIV)

## Your MISSION

- **You now know what repentance is about.**
  - And you know that it must be an ongoing way of life.
- **IF repentance does NOT characterize your life...**
  - You know what to you need do (if you want to change and be saved).
  - **YOU MUST DECIDE** and respond accordingly.

## **REMINDER:**

- **God has offered you the power to change. It's his power! And it's FREE!**
- **IF the change does NOT occur:** WE can take credit for that.
  - It's "us being our sinful selves."
- **IF the change DOES occur:** We can give GOD credit for that.
  - It's "the Holy Spirit living in us and displaying his power through us."

## Your MISSION

- **IF repentance DOES characterize your life (as GOD defines repentance)...**
  - Be encouraged by the fact that you ARE saved.
  - Never stop giving praise to God, who made it possible.
  - Never stop resisting sin; for the devil is out to destroy you.

## **REMINDER:**

- You will stop resisting sin ONLY if your repentance is fake.
- God's sovereignty **GUARANTEES** that genuine repentance will include resisting sin!

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