

Assurance of Salvation
Part 32

Repentance
(#2)

Repentance

- Evidence of Salvation -

(When It's Genuine)

TWO IMPOSSIBLE THINGS

- To **repent**, if you **HATE** God.
- To **NOT** repent, if you **LOVE** God.

Love for God and repentance ALWAYS go together. It will be *both* or *neither*.

WHY?
↓

HATE FOR GOD

- We were **born** with this hatred. It is ours by nature and by choice.
- We are rebels, traitors, total enemies of the God who created us.
- **It is 100% contrary to LOVE FOR GOD.**

LOVE FOR GOD

- This love becomes ours when the Holy Spirit gives us **new birth** (John 3).
- If we have it:
 - Our consciences will be convicted by our sins.
 - We will want to repent of everything that goes against God.
 - The **more** LOVE we have, the **more** we will want to REPENT.
- **It is 100% contrary to HATE FOR GOD.**



The **FALSE gospel** likes to cut the bridge in half and remove the "repentance" part!



But for people who are born sinners...
(= **ALL** of us)

LOVE FOR GOD ——— **REPENTANCE**

You CANNOT separate these!

REPENTANCE – a GIFT from God and a DUTY of humans.

- **GIFT** – Occurs when we are "born again" by the power of God's Spirit.
- **DUTY** – One of the first steps a person takes (along with trust), when a person looks to God for salvation.

God ... commands all people everywhere to repent.
(Acts 17:30 NIV)

AN OBLIGATION FOR ALL

- **For the unsaved:** The initial step of a complete "turn around" in their values and conduct.
- **For the saved:** The ongoing process of "refining" their values and conduct – the process of becoming more like Jesus.

TO BE GENUINE:

- It must be repentance (sorrow *with* change), and not mere remorse (sorrow *without* change).

THE QUESTION:

What are the characteristics of genuine repentance?

THREE Characteristics:

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.

(TODAY – The 1st characteristic)

* Abhorrence of sin as being against God *

- More than just admitting it is sin.
- Includes being convinced it is evil, a violation of God's law, a rejection of his authority, etc.

The REAL issue with sin

- NOT that it robs you of the holiness and blessings that are associated with following God.
- NOT that it sends you to hell.
 - **THESE THINGS ARE MERELY THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REAL ISSUE!**
- The real issue: **IT IS AGAINST GOD.**
 - *This* is the reason that it robs you and sends you to hell.

WHY is it against God?

- What sin is/isn't is determined by God's very nature and character – all that God is:
Sin is anything that violates God's nature and character.
- So when you sin, you are rejecting not only God's *definition* of sin, but God himself.

SIN – Ultimately against GOD

- This includes what you do – your **actions**.
 - Including sins you decide to call "OK."
- It also includes your values and what you think – your **attitudes**.
 - Including sins you desire or love, though you don't do them.
- It even includes **the ABSENCE of actions and attitudes**, when you fail to do/think what is right.

SIN – Ultimately against GOD

- Whether "big"



- or "little"



SIN – Ultimately against GOD

- Whether seen by others
 - or hidden from view

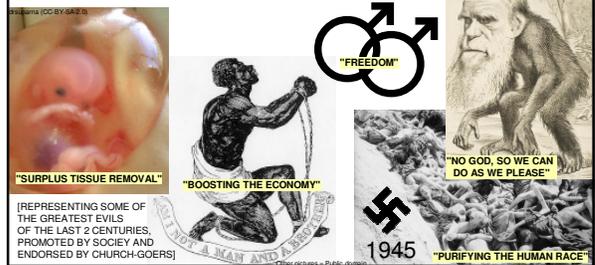


They'll never know!



SIN – Ultimately against GOD

- Even when society approves of the sin, **and** *"church-goers" go along with it.*



Implications of this...

- People have no right or authority to create their *own* definitions of "sin."
 - Not you, not me, not the government, not the media.

- You don't get to flip a coin to decide.



When the things you cherish are called "sin" by the Bible...

- **The problem is NOT:**
 - the BIBLE'S evaluation of the issue.
- **The problem is:**
 - YOUR definition doesn't match GOD'S definition.
 - YOU are still controlled by the WORLD'S values.
 - YOU are wrong.

To have a TRUTHFUL view of sin:

- It is IMPERATIVE that we get to know the **God** of the Bible!
(Since God's nature/character define what sin is!)
- This also means getting to know the **Bible!**
(Because the Bible is where God reveals himself to us.)

How sinful is sin?

- Sin is:
 - complete HATRED for **GOD**.
 - complete HATRED for God's holy and righteous **LAW**.

Those who sin are opposed to the law of God, for all sin opposes the law of God.
(1 John 3:4 NLT)

Sin is...

- Willful, deliberate rejection of what is right.
- Treason against the King of Kings.
- Suppression of the truth that you KNOW in your heart.
- Vile, corrupt, wicked, evil, etc.
- Love for, and allegiance to, the devil.

It's **AGAINST GOD**, even when it's being committed against **PEOPLE!**

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

(Psalm 51:4 NIV)

Context: David had just committed adultery and murder. But this passage looks at the ULTIMATE issue. Since humans are created in the "image of God," any sin against humans is ultimately sin against God, their creator.



"But I'm not that bad!"



- Sin hardens the conscience; so the more you do it, the less it bothers you.

... their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21b (NIV)
 ... the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Ephes. 4:18b (NIV)
 ... whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 1 Tim. 4:2b (NIV)
 ... both their minds and consciences are corrupted. Titus 1:15b (NIV)

- Yet in spite of what we may think or feel...

It's like cursing God to his face, spitting on him, ...

and defying him to do something about it...

PICTURE CENSORED

(ACTUALLY, IT'S A WHOLE LOT WORSE.)

And when he DOESN'T do this to you...

You think you got away with it.



Don't you realize it's only a matter of time?

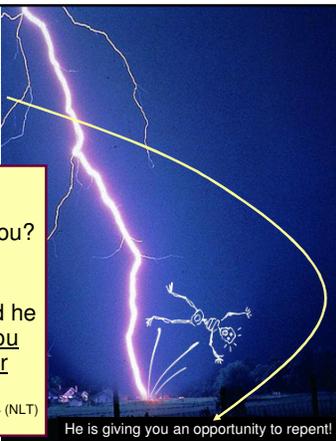
But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.
(Romans 2:5 NIV)



DO YOU KNOW WHY GOD HASN'T STRUCK YOU DEAD YET?

Don't you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you?
Or don't you care?
Can't you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin? (= REPENTANCE)
Romans 2:4 (NLT)

He is giving you an opportunity to repent!



YOUR MISSION: RESPOND

Knowing all this...

- There is *only one response* for those who LOVE GOD: **REPENTANCE.**

LOVE FOR GOD ———— REPENTANCE

- So the question is...



How do YOU respond?



Credits (1)

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