



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#30

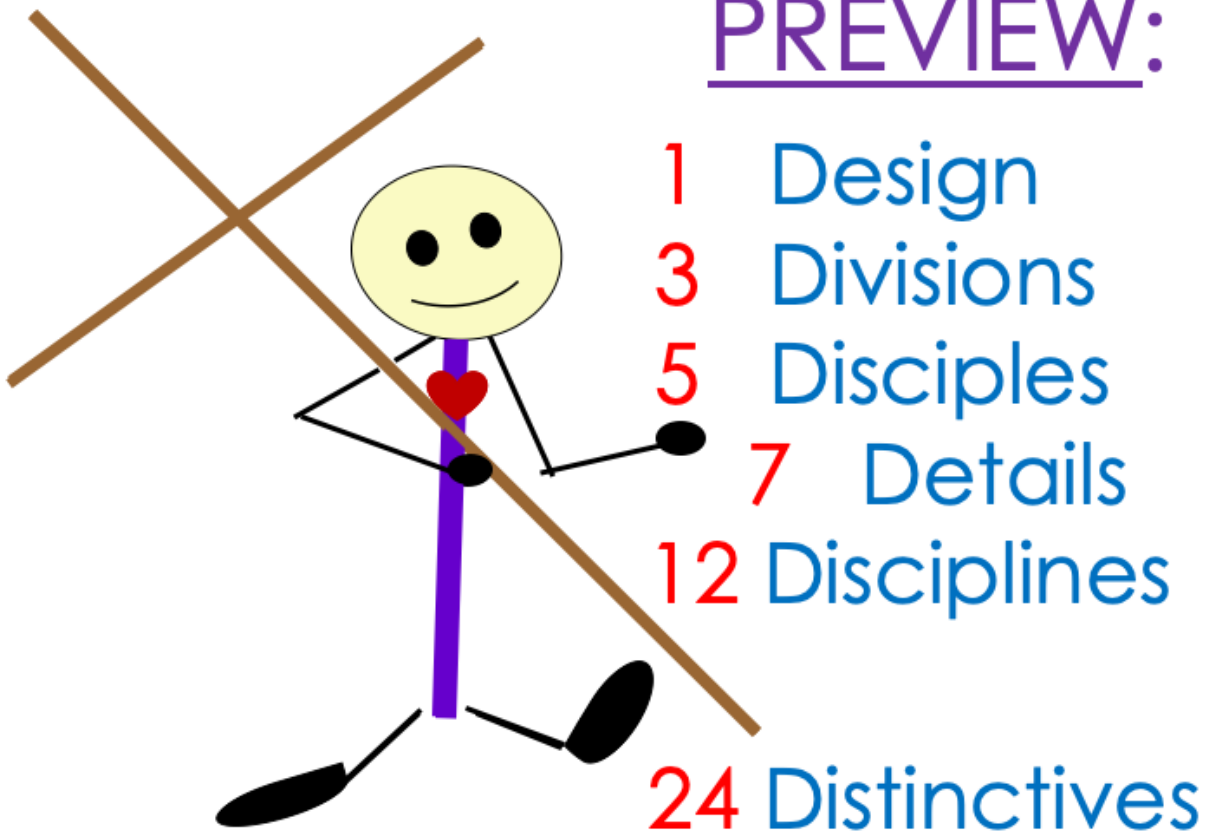
Repenting Of Sin

Psalm 51

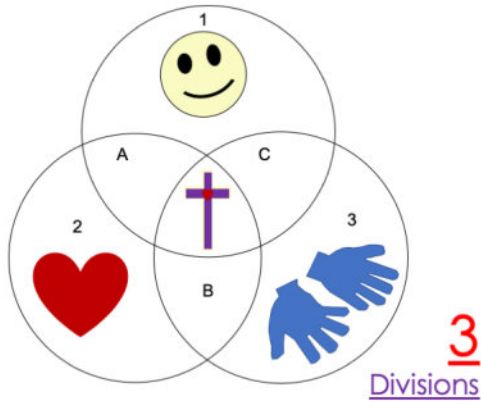
(Come And See Christianity book pages 93)

The FLOW

PREVIEW:

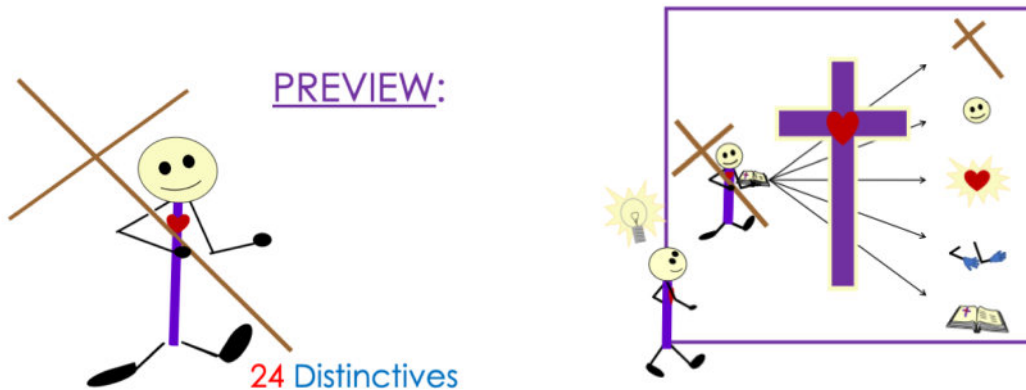


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



The Disciple's "Hands" put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

24 Family Distinctives:



24 DISTINCTIVES:

The “**distinctives**” are a family portrait... When you add God’s Word, God’s Spirit, God’s Truth, God’s love, and God’s people all together, the **distinctives** are what **we look, love, & live like :-)**

We are...



Repenting of SIN

INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

**Remember,
The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...
Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.**

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. ***Responding to grace***
2. ***Repenting of sin***
3. ***Trusting the Bible***
4. ***Obeying God's Word***
5. ***Growing in Christ***
6. ***Living Spirit-led***
7. ***Praying for guidance***
8. ***Following by faith***
9. ***Dying to self***
10. ***Carrying our cross***
11. ***BE-ing The Church***
12. ***Loving one another (truly loving one another)***
13. ***Equipping the saints***
14. ***Exemplifying supernatural unity***
15. ***Ministering as ambassadors***
16. ***Discerning matters shrewdly***
17. ***Worshipping God vertically***
18. ***Experiencing Him horizontally***
19. ***Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)***
20. ***Fishing for men***
21. ***Making disciplined warriors***
22. ***Winning spiritual warfare***
23. ***Loving our King***
24. ***Serving His kingdom***

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

This lesson marks another major transition point in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth." – 1st John 3:18

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47**praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47*

I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God's miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God's family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God's family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

Christianity's DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).

“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”
– John 13:35

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives. When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

- John Piper

The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians, prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

The first word Jesus preached in the Bible was “REPENT.”

Matthew 4:17

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Notice as well, per Mark 1:14-15, as Christ was “proclaiming the gospel,” **He called humanity to ultimate humility** when He declared “repent and believe” - first REPENT, then believe. Herein, The LORD established an intentional sequencing, an order of service. Hear the inspired Word of God. ***According to Jesus, biblical faith follows responsive REPENTANCE.***

When we realize The Gospel’s foundational prioritizing and grace-based positioning of REPENTANCE, it should inspire us to press into this lesson and to live our lives far more introspectively. Think about it... In the same way that the Christian life begins when one faithfully responds to saving grace, the next and validating response to God’s transformative grace (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) should be eternal, horizontal, and perpetual REPENTANCE. As we will see, **REPENTING OF SIN is a first, defining, and essential fruit of God’s miraculous and saving grace.**

Unless you have made a complete surrender & are doing God's will it will avail you nothing if you've reformed a thousand times. and have your name on fifty church records.
- Billy Sunday

Repentance is the true turning of our life to God, a turning that arises from a pure and earnest fear of Him; and it consists in the mortification of the flesh and the renewing of the Spirit.
- John Calvin

Many mourn for their sins that do not truly repent of them, they weep bitterly for them, and yet continue in love and league with them.
- Matthew Henry

What is repentance and is it necessary for salvation?

Many understand the term repentance to mean “a turning from sin.” Regretting sin and turning from it are related to repentance but are not the precise meaning of the word. In the Bible, the word repent means “to change one’s mind.” The Bible also tells us that true repentance will result in a change of actions ([Luke 3:8–14](#); [Acts 3:19](#)). In summarizing his ministry, Paul declares, “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds” ([Acts 26:20](#)). The short biblical definition of repentance is **“a change of mind that results in a change of action.”**

What, then, is the connection between repentance and [salvation](#)? The book of Acts especially focuses on repentance in regard to salvation ([Acts 2:38](#); [3:19](#); [11:18](#); [17:30](#); [20:21](#); [26:20](#))... The repentant person has “second thoughts” about the mindset he formerly embraced. There is a change of disposition and a new way of thinking about God, about sin, about holiness, and about doing God’s will. True repentance is prompted by “godly sorrow,” and **it “leads to salvation”** ([2 Corinthians 7:10](#)).

Repentance and [faith](#) can be understood as two sides of the same coin. It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about your sin and about who Jesus is and what He has done... Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is **changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.**

Repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God pulls that person to Himself ([John 6:44](#)). Repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace ([Acts 5:31](#); [11:18](#)). No one can repent unless God grants repentance. All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God’s longsuffering leads us to repentance ([2 Peter 3:9](#)), as does His kindness ([Romans 2:4](#)).

While repentance is not a work that earns salvation, repentance unto salvation does result in works. It is impossible to truly change your mind without changing your actions in some way. **In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behavior...** ([Matthew 3:8](#)). **A person who has truly repented of sin & exercised faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life** ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Galatians 5:19–23](#); [James 2:14–26](#)).

To see what repentance looks like in real life, turn to the story of [Zacchaeus](#). Here was a man who cheated and stole and lived lavishly on his ill-gotten gains—until he met Jesus. At that point he had a radical change of mind: “Look, Lord!” said Zacchaeus. “Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount” ([Luke 19:8](#))... The cheat became a philanthropist; the thief made restitution. That’s repentance, coupled with faith in Christ.

Repentance, properly defined, is necessary for salvation.

At this point, **we need to take a closer look at SIN.** Moreover, we need to fundamentally understand the relationship, to include definitions and applications, between God-honoring REPENTANCE and biblical SIN. In short, the two are always foundationally connected. **It is SIN that gives rise to the need for REPENTANCE.** Similarly, it is REPENTANCE, standing on the shoulders of comprehensive confession, that ushers in SIN's eternal and relational resolution, namely, heavenly restoration. In both cases, the constant common denominators are Christ, His cross, and The Gospel's amazing grace!

*A sinner can no more repent and believe
without the Holy Spirit's aid than he can create a world.
- Charles Spurgeon*

How Do I Know If Something Is a Sin?

If we don't believe that we are sinners, then we will not have an accurate understanding of our need for a Savior. It is only when we understand that we are sinners that we will flee to Christ for forgiveness of our sin. And in order to understand that we are sinners, we need to know what sin is.

*The Scriptures teach us that sin is displeasing to God, and that it merits spiritual death and an eternal judgment (Rom. 6:23; John 8:24). So, **it is essential to know what sin is so that we can find a remedy for it in Christ and seek to avoid sin, that we might live a life that is pleasing to God.** We cannot do this if we don't know what sin is and what it is not; if we cannot distinguish between things that are sinful and things that are not.*

*First, let us consider what sin is not. **Sin is not our opinion of what is right and wrong.** It is not our own private list: "the filthy five, the nasty nine, the dirty dozen," etc. It is not as though I can have my list of what I think sin is, and you can have yours. For example, "Adultery is sin, but sex outside of marriage is not sin as long as the two people love each other." [Proverbs 12:15](#) tells us, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes . . ."*

***Neither is sin defined by preferences:** "I don't like rock music, so rock music is sinful." or "I don't like dancing, so it must be sin." Sin is not a matter of one's personal preferences, nor is it a matter of societal mores. In other words, sin is not determined by psychological or sociological surveys. Some would say, "As long as the majority of society says something is permissible, then it can't be sin. So, if abortion is approved by society, it can't be sin. If all divorce is approved by society, it can't be sin. If homosexuality is approved by society, it can't be sin." However, **what is sin and what is not sin is not to be determined by sociological studies or by the majority vote of the population.** How then do we determine what sin is?*

Sin is defined for us in God's Word. The Apostle John writes, "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Sin is defined not in terms of our opinion, or the opinion of others, or in terms of what makes us feel bad, or any other man-made criteria. Sin is defined by God in terms of His Law. Sin is "lawlessness." (1 John 3:4).

Sin is defined in terms of God's law since God's law is a reflection of His holy character. Note how the law is defined in Romans 7:12, "So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." The words used to define the law of God are the same words used to describe the character of God. God is holy, and He requires us as His image bearers to be holy as well. **Obedience to God's holy law defines holy living for the believer and unbeliever alike.**

Sin is "unloving disobedience" to God's will as expressed in His holy law and Word. In it, He shows us what He requires and what He forbids.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 14, asks, "What is sin?" The answer given is, "**Sin is any want [lack] of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.**" This is probably as good a definition as could be given of what sin is. First, God's law, anchored in God's character (Rom. 7:12), is the standard. And second, **there are two broad categories of sin. Generally, they are called sins of omission and sins of commission.** In other words,

we can sin by what we don't think, say, or do, as well as by what we do think, say, or do.

...This is why we need to be exposed to the teaching of God's Word and law. In order for us to understand what God requires of us, to understand the gravity of our sinful condition, to understand our need for the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, we must know God's law. The law reveals what is sin in our lives and shows us our need for Christ (Rom. 7:7-11).

Those who understand the true nature of sin and define sin as God does say, "I am undone! I am a sinner, condemned, unclean, the chief of sinners!" They can then find forgiveness by God's grace in Jesus. He is the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

As believers in Jesus whose sins have been forgiven, we can know how to pursue a life that is pleasing in His sight by knowing what is sin and what is not, as we read and study the law and Word of God. - **Ligonier Ministries** / Roland Barnes

The New Testament's most repeated word for SIN means, "missing the mark." Thus, to miss the Bible's God-breathed "bullseyes" is to SIN (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Heaven finds an ear when sinners find a tongue.
- Francis Quarles

BIG IDEA: **Repenting of sin is the Christian's eternal response to Christ's saving grace, as well as their personal responsibility to repeat horizontally and perpetually.**

PREVIEW:

1. ETERNALLY
2. HORIZONTALLY
3. PERPETUALLY

TEXT:

Psalm 51

1Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings. 2Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. 3For I know my wrongdoings and my sin is constantly before me...

1. Repenting Of Sin ETERNALLY

Illustration:

True, grace-based, Christian REPENTANCE
opens the Gospel's vertical and horizontal doors to relational restoration.

*Many think they repent when it is not the offense but
the penalty that troubles them.*

- Thomas Watson

*Some people do not like to hear much of repentance; but I think it is
so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I would desire to die
preaching repentance, and if out of the pulpit*

I would desire to die practicing it.

- Matthew Henry

Explanation:

Psalm 51 teaches us that all SIN is ultimately SIN against God. No exceptions! We also know that *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Again, no exceptions. Continuing with the Bible’s pure doctrine, Romans 6:23 declares the cost of those SINS, if not divinely forgiven through biblical REPENTANCE and faith, will be eternally and universally fatal, *“for the wages of SIN is death.”* It is at this spiritual junction that every sinner’s need for Jesus & REPENTING OF SIN ETERNALLY comes into focus.

REPENTANCE is something that Christians “do” that is based 100% on what Christ has already “done.” In other words, the REPENTANCE that is married to biblical faith, which together, by grace, combine to fulfill Christ’s commissioning command to *“repent and believe,”* is itself a gift. To say it another way, every born again (John 3:3) believer, will have an eternal life that was confirmed through, in part, their biblical REPENTANCE, which was blood-bought by Christ on His cross. To be sure, He alone makes possible the ABC’s of The Gospel’s call for REPENTANCE. *By grace alone, thru faith alone, in Christ alone, per the Word of God alone, and for His glory alone... Christians*

- A = ACCEPT this truth in love with an attitude of gratitude.
- B = BELIEVE & receive all of God’s Word, will, and ways.
- C = CONFESS & repent vertically, horizontally, perpetually.

*Repentance, as we know, is basically not moaning and remorse,
but turning and change.
- J.I. Packer*

Application:

- R = Realize vs. marginalize the Reality of SIN.**
- E = Experience biblical, heart-felt conviction over SIN.**
- P = Purge through comprehensive confession of SIN.**
- E = End it! Do your best to kill all SIN.**
- N = Need for forgiveness of said SIN acknowledged...**
- T = Truly TURN from SIN To Christ and Christ-likeness!**

Formerly I thought sin a pleasant thing, but now I have changed my mind about it; formerly I thought the world an attractive place, but now I know better; formerly I regarded it a miserable business to be a Christian, but now I think differently. Once I thought certain things delightful, now I think them vile; once I thought other things utterly worthless, now I think them most precious. That is a change of mind, and that is repentance.
- *Watchman Nee*

2. Repenting Of Sin HORIZONTALLY

Illustration:

Another proof of the conquest of a soul for Christ will be found in a real change of life. If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs to be repented of and his conversion is a fiction.
- *Charles Spurgeon*

Explanation:

While all SIN ultimately offends the living God, the offenses of our SIN are not at all limited to the vertical plane and heavenly realm. No. Instead, often times, the effects of our wrong-doing, our SINS, can spread like wildfire HORIZONTALLY across various groupings of humanity. Just think about how one individual SIN can impact, hurt, even devastate... friendships, marriages, families, communities, churches, corporations, countries, etc.

The sad reality is that ***SIN often rolls in like a heavy horizontal fog...*** corrupting and covering all in its path. Here too, REPENTING OF SIN is called for. One dare not neglect REPENTING HORIZONTALLY when their SINS are hurting other human beings on the horizontal plane. No. Christianity calls for swift and righteous Christ-likeness on the part of the wrong-doer AND the one wronged (Ephesians 4:26 & Acts 3:19).

Fortunately, God's miraculous mercy and encouraging grace can be experienced in countless ways. Case in point, one of the sweetest displays of the LORD's loving kindness is found in His Word's all-inclusive authority and its comprehensive clarity. For example, REPENTING OF SIN HORIZONTALLY is, structurally, the same as it is vertically. Per God's Word, will, and ways, both begin with & are empowered by supernatural grace. Then, when miraculous and loving conviction has set in (John 6:44) over one's SIN(s), confession comes next, followed by heartfelt and biblical REPENTANCE. In both directions, vertically and horizontally, the end goal is also the same, biblical restoration. Thus, Christianity's consistency in motives, means, and methods of REPENTANCE are aligned as a humbling witness to the world.

We understand why in the Bible repentance precedes faith. Before people find their need -- love met in God, they are looking to other things, often money, for satisfaction. So believing in God has to involve a 180-degree turn away (that is, repentance) from the love of money to find contentment and confidence for the future simply in knowing God and depending on His promises.

- Daniel Fuller

Application:

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

Acts 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

Repentance is more than just sorrow for the past; repentance is a change of mind and heart, a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as king in self's place.

- J.I. Packer

3. Repenting Of Sin PERPETUALLY

Illustration:

Repentance is a grace, and must have its daily operation, as well as other graces. A true penitent must go on from faith to faith, from strength to strength; he must never stand still or turn back. True repentance is a continued spring, where the waters of godly sorrow are always flowing. 'My sin is ever before me'.

- Thomas Brooks

Explanation:

Much of Christianity is defined & described with terms and truths that generate “both/and” tensions. To prove this point, one need look no further than the cross and crucifixion of Christ, where we see the seemingly opposing extremes of love and hate simultaneously displayed and biblically exemplified.

A similar tension can be found in the relationship between a biblical believer’s “once for all time” ETERNAL REPENTANCE, which was an essential component of their justification, and their seemingly paradoxical need for PERPETUAL REPENTANCE, which will accompany their life long struggle with sanctification.

To narrow this God-honoring, biblical path of truth in love even more (Matthew 7:14 & Ephesians 4:15), take to heart one’s need to embrace the VERTICAL and ETERNAL, as well as the HORIZONTAL and PERPETUAL opportunities we have to REPENT OF SIN. In so doing, BE a biblical witness to the transformative grace, Gospel, and glory of God – **His name is Jesus!**

True repentance is no light matter. It is a thorough change of heart about sin, a change showing itself in godly sorrow and humiliation - in heartfelt confession before the throne of grace - in a complete breaking off from sinful habits, and an abiding hatred of all sin. Such repentance is the inseparable companion of saving faith in Christ.

- J. C. Ryle

Application:

I learn from the Scriptures that repentance is just as necessary to salvation as faith is, and the faith that has not repentance going with it will have to be repented of.

- Charles Spurgeon

PERPETUAL REPENTING OF SIN will have a principled ebb and flow that should cycle through, in a very personal and somewhat unique way, the following five steps.

- A. **Conviction** - God grabs our heart & exposes our SIN to our souls.
- B. **Confession** - Grace is displayed thru honest, transparent confession.
- C. **Contrition** - Mercy is cherished & self-preservation is crucified.
- D. **Contradiction** - Faithful obedience turns us to Christ & away from SIN.
- E. **Continuation** - Christians commit to Persevere, Pray, Obey, & Repeat.

People who cover their faults and excuse themselves do not have a repentant spirit.

- Watchman Nee

Learn this lesson: not to trust Christ because you repent, but trust Christ to make you repent; not to come to Christ because you have a broken heart, but to come to Him that He may give you a broken heart; not to come to Him because you are fit to come, but to come to Him because you are unfit to come. Your fitness is your unfitness. Your qualification is your lack of qualification.

- Charles Spurgeon

CLOSE:

*Fear-based repentance makes us hate ourselves.
Joy-based repentance makes us hate the sin.*

- Tim Keller

For What?

The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation.

- Martin Luther

It is a poor sermon that gives no offense; that neither makes the hearer displeased with himself nor with the preacher.

- George Whitefield

Can true repentance exist without faith? By no means. But although they cannot be separated, they ought to be distinguished.

- John Calvin

We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.

- C.S. Lewis

So What?

Knowledge without repentance will be but a torch to light men to hell.

- Thomas Watson

There was a day when I died; died to self, my opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren or friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.

- George Mueller

Instead of REPENTANCE, people are getting all kinds of counterfeit spiritual experiences. There seems to be almost no discernment....

- Andrew Strom

Now What?

To do so no more is the truest repentance.

- Martin Luther

Many mourn for their sins that do not truly repent of them, they weep bitterly for them, yet continue in love and league with them.

- Matthew Henry

*You cannot repent too soon,
because you do not know how soon it may be too late.*

- Thomas Fuller

*The vigor and power and comfort of our spiritual life depends on
our mortification of deeds of the flesh.*

- John Owen

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Support Sermon:

"Repentance"

Psalm 51

August 29, 2010

Sermon Series: Defining Definitive Definitions