

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of repentance and the implications in the Christian life.

Essential Doctrine: Repentance

Repentance is a response to God's gracious call to salvation, and includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin (Luke 5:1-11), a turning away from one's sin toward Christ (Acts 26:15-20), and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation (Ps. 119:57-60). It is the human counterpart to God's work of regeneration, helping us to see what takes place from the human side of conversion.

1 Repentance is a gift of God, but it is something we do (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25).

- ▶ Describe a situation in which your parents or some other authority figure made you apologize to someone else. What happened?
- ▶ Did they ever tell you to say you were sorry like you really mean it? What's the problem with this demand?
- ▶ Is repentance difficult for you? Why or why not?
- ▶ What suggestions would you give to someone who is struggling to repent?

Read Acts 11:18 and 2 Timothy 2:25.

- ▶ According to these passages, where does repentance come from?
- ▶ If God himself grants us repentance when we sin against him, how much more passionate and joyous and strong should our worship of Him and treasuring of Him be?

2 Repentance includes more than remorse (Matt. 27:3-5; Heb. 12:17).

- ▶ How would you define repentance?

Read Matthew 27:3-5 and Hebrews 12:17.

- ▶ Was there evidence of Esau or Judas' repentance?
- ▶ What is the difference between remorse and repentance?
- ▶ Can you give an example of people being sorry for their sin, but not truly repenting?
- ▶ How can you ask the Holy Spirit to be sure your repentance is true repentance and not just remorse?

3 Repentance is ultimately a reorientation of our joy (Jer. 2:12-13).

- ▶ Some say repentance involves a turning, a re-orientation. What do we turn from? Where do we turn?
- ▶ Why do we sin in the first place? (Because we think it will provide us with happiness.)
- ▶ Ultimately, why do we need to repent? What do we get out of repentance?

Read Jeremiah 2:12-13

- ▶ What two evils did God say His people committed?
- ▶ According to this passage, what is sin? (Turning from happiness in God to happiness in something else.)
- ▶ What can this passage tell us about repentance? If evil means turning from God to the world, what is repentance?
- ▶ How does joy factor into our repentance? Ultimately, when we repent, what are we looking for? (Joy in God Himself.)
- ▶ How does knowing repentance is turning to greater joy make it easier to repent?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How does repentance involve the entire person: heart, mind, head, emotions, words, actions, attitude?