

A Biblical Understanding of Repentance

1. The Meaning of Repentance in the Scriptures
 - a. The most common of two Hebrew words translated "repent" is *shüüb*.
 - The verb form of the word means to return, turn back, turn away from. In its various forms, it can mean restore, refresh, turn toward, and remember, among other things. It is frequently used in the O. T. in verses in which God is calling His people to turn away from sin and transgression and to turn to Him and receive His forgiveness. It is the same in the one instance in which it is translated as the noun, repentance. (Isaiah 30:15)
 - b. The Greek word for repentance is *μετάνοια*.
 - From 3326 /metá, "changed after being with" and 3539 /noiéō, "think") – properly, "think differently after," "after a change of mind"; to repent (literally, "think differently afterwards"). [Helps Word-studies]
 - This word indicates that repentance is a change of mind. The meaning of the prefix, metá, indicates that this change of mind is the result of something.
 - > Romans 2:4 reads, *"Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"*
 - the Gospel call to repentance
 - the law of God Romans 7:7
 - experiencing the degradation of sin (Lk. 15:11-32)
 - being shown one's sin ("fault") by a brother
 - conviction by the Holy Spirit through God's Word or in one's conscience (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - c. Biblical repentance should be understood to be a change of mind in relation to God leading to a change of behavior.
 - Isaiah 55:7-8 *"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely (abundantly) pardon."*
 - Luke 3:8-14 *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance..."* (John the Baptist)
 - John 5:14 *"Stop sinning..."* (Jesus to man at Pool of Bethsaida)
 - John 8:11 *"Go and sin no more."*
 - Acts 3:19 *"Repent, then, and turn to God..."*
 - Acts 26:20 *"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."*
 - 2 Timothy 2:19 *"... God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'"*
 - **Implicit in the attitude of repentance is the PURPOSE to do differently.**
 - d. Repentance is not an emotion. It may, and certainly should, produce emotion.
 - The Hebrew word, *נָחַם* (nä·kham') means "to be sorry" or "to regret." It is sometimes translated, "repent."

- 2 Corinthians 7:9 – “godly sorrow leads to repentance”
- True and False Repentance 2 Corinthians 7:10

2. The Message of Repentance in the New Testament

- The message of John the Baptist - Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 3:3
- The message of Jesus Christ - Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 5:3-32; 13:1-5
- The message of Jesus’s disciples - Mark 6:12
- The message of the Apostolic period - Acts 2:38; 3:19-20; 17:30; 26:20
- The message of the Church - Luke 24:45-47
- The message to the churches - Revelation 2:5; 2:16; 2:21-22; 3:3; 3:19-20

3. The Expression of Repentance for Reconciliation and Restoration

- An apology is not an expression of repentance.
 - ἀπολογία apologia literally means “to make a verbal defense”
- Confession is the biblical expression of repentance and is a firstfruit of repentance.
 - Psalm 51; Psalm 32; Proverbs 28:13
 - Revelation 3:19-20 (same ἀκούω as in Matthew 18:15)
 - 1 John 1:9
 - James 5:15b-16
- The biblical definition of confession.
 - ὁμολογέω homologeó means “to speak the same thing”
 - Implicit in the expression of repentance is the PROMISE to do differently.**
 - Communicating Repentance through Confession

God sees the heart; all we have to go on is the person’s expression of repentance – confession.

 - Express remorse. (sorrow and regret)
 - Accept personal responsibility without excuse or explanation.
 - Call sin what it is and righteousness what it is.
 - Seek forgiveness.

4. The Evidence of Repentance for Reconciliation and Restoration

- Luke 3:8-14 (Examples of transformation)
- Acts 26:20 (Paul to Agrippa)
- The Principle of Restitution

5. The Necessity of Repentance for Reconciliation and Restoration

- With God
 - Psalm 32
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Revelation 3:19-20
- With Man
 - Matthew 5:23-24
 - Luke 17:3-4