

Basic Christian Beliefs (Class 9) –

Salvation: Pt. 3 (Repentance)

Introduction: Connecting the Pieces of Salvation

- Review
 - Ask: What have we been talking about for the last several weeks? (Salvation)
 - Ask: What analogy have we used to talk about all the various pieces of salvation and how they fit together (A Puzzle)
 - Ask: Who can tell me all the parts of salvation that we have talked about so far (Effective calling, regeneration, faith)
- Introduce Repentance
 - Say: Last week we talked about Faith is a response to God's effective calling and regeneration of our hearts. But the work of God of salvation doesn't stop with faith. When God gives us faith to respond to him, he also gives us something else. We are now going to read a few verses that will tell us what God gives us along side of faith. (Have different students read the following verses).
 - **Mark 1:4** ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
 - **Luke 5:32-33** ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
 - **Acts 5:31** ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.
 - Ask: Based on these verses, what else goes along with faith? (Repentance)
 - Say: When God calls us and regenerates our heart, so that we respond in faith, we ALSO respond with repentance. With faith comes REPENTANCE. And this is what we are going to talk about today.
 - Write REPENTANCE on the board

Part 1: Repentance is turning FROM SIN...TO GOD

- Repentance: A Basic Definition
 - Say: Like faith that we talked about last week, REPENTANCE is a central concept in the Bible – something that we MUST HAVE if we are to be saved. Luke 13:5 says “But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Likewise, Matthew 3:1-12 warns us to repent because the kingdom of God is near, and with the coming of the kingdom of God **comes** judgment on all who don't repent. So you see, repentance is REALLY IMPORTANT. And so, like faith, we need to carefully consider what repentance means.
 - Ask: Who can tell me what repentance is? (Allow for a variety of answers)

- Ask: What is the difference between Confession and Repentance? (Confession is ADMITTING sin while Repentance is TURNING FROM sin).
- Say: The basic idea behind repentance is a TURNING FROM SIN. The word specifically means “to have a change” of “mind.” So basically, repentance means to change by turning from sin.
 - Read Acts 3:19 ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
 - Say: Do you see how the author is saying here: Repent and Turn to God. The idea is one of turning. THE BASIC IDEA OF REPENTANCE IS TURNING FROM SIN TO GOD. Now we are going to look a little more closely at what this turning might look like.

Part 2: Repentance is turning from sin to God WITH ALL THAT YOU ARE

- **Case Study:** Say: **So let me give you an situation and you tell me whether or not this is repentance. Let’s say I commit a sin this week – let’s say that I get angry and say something that I shouldn’t to a friend of mine at work. He was getting on my nerves all week and, on Friday, I couldn’t take any more. So I lost it with him and starting yelling at him. Afterwards, as I was driving home from work that day, I felt embarrassed at having gotten so angry. I know that people at work probably lost respect for me, and that it is going to be awkward around my friend for a while now. I may even be called in by my boss on Monday for a lecture on how to treat my coworkers. I know that this probably wasn’t the best thing to do, even though I think my friend really deserved it. I also know that when I tell my wife that evening about the incident, she is going to ask me if I have prayed for forgiveness. Ugh! So, reluctantly, I decide to at least get the prayer part over with. Right before I pull up to my house I say a quick prayer about how I probably shouldn’t have said what I did even though my friend basically forced me to do it by being so irritating. I ask God to keep my boss off of my back over this, and to help restore my business relationships as much as possible, so that I don’t lose friends and the respect of coworkers. I say this quick prayer, glad that it is over with, and pull up, ready to tell my wife about my day and how I have repented off my actions.**
 - Ask: Is this an example of repentance? Why or why not? (Note: if they answer no, say: but isn’t this an example of my turning from sin – I said I probably shouldn’t have done what I did? And not only did I turn from sin, but didn’t I also turn TO God? I did pray about it after all.) (A: No, this is not true repentance. If I turned away from my sin at all, it is only because I was afraid of the consequences – losing respect and friendship, getting yelled at by my wife and boss).
 - Say: As this case study illustrates, sometimes an action that looks like repentance really isn’t repentance. Sometimes you might turn from sin to God only because you are sorry for the mess it has gotten you in. This is half-hearted repentance (which really isn’t repentance at all).
- **Mark 12:30:** God wants us to repent with our whole heart. In Mark 12:30, Jesus commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. According to Jesus, anything less than loving God with ALL of who you are – your heart, soul, mind, and strength – isn’t true love. You might say the same thing is true of repentance. Repentance – TRUE repentance – should involve all of who we are.
- **Westminster Catechism:** Have someone read what the Westminster Shorter Catechism Answer #87 says about repentance: *“Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense*

of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.”

- Say: The definition emphasizes how repentance should involve ALL of who we are. There are three basic parts of this definition. When you put them together, you get a COMPLETE picture of what repentance looks like. One of these parts involves your mind, one involves your heart (or emotions), and one involves your actions. I am going to write the three parts on the board, and I want you to tell me whether each part is dealing with your mind, your heart, or your actions.
 - Part #1: Understanding your sin and the mercy of God in Christ (Mind)
 - Part #2: Grieving and Hating your sin (Heart)
 - Part #3: Obeying God as you turn away from your sin (Actions)
- Ask: Which part involves your mind? Heart? Actions?
- Say: True repentance is a turning from sin to God. And this is a complete, whole-hearted turning. Let's now look at each of these parts to understand more accurately what repentance looks like.

Part 3: Repentance involves understanding YOUR SIN and GOD'S MERCY

- Say: Let's now look at the first part of repentance: Understanding your sin and the mercy of God in Christ.
 - Ask: To truly repent, we must understand something in our mind. What two things must we understand, according to this definition (our sin and God's mercy).
- Say: Let's first talk about understanding our sin.
 - Have a student read **1 John 1:8-9** ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- **SKIT: BACKGROUND & REPENTANCE TAKE 1**
 - Say: Obviously, as this skit illustrates, there can be no TURNING away from sin if you don't acknowledge that you have sin in your life. In order to truly repent – in order to truly turn from our sin to God – we must first UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE SIN IN OUR LIVES.
- Say: But secondly, in order to truly repentant, you must also understand something else. What did we say this was? (God's mercy)
 - Ask: Why do you think it is important for us to understand God's mercy in order to repent? (allow for a variety of answers)
 - Have a student read the following verses:
 - **Romans 2:4** ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

- **Joel 2:13** ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.
- Say: Let me ask you a question. If you do something wrong at home – let's say you do something wrong against your parents. Are you more likely to go and apologize and ask for forgiveness if they are furious at you and you are worried they are going to yell at you and hit you, or if you know that when you confess and ask for forgiveness they will be kind and loving to you? (When they are kind and loving). It is a little bit like that when it comes to repentance and God. If we understand that – because of what Jesus did for us – God is loving towards us and is compassionate and gracious, if we understand that he forgives our sins when we confess them, then we are MUCH more likely to confess and repent. Because we KNOW that God IS gracious and merciful – and this all because of what Christ has done for us – we can be confident to go to God in repentance.

Part 4: Repentance involves GRIEVING AND HATING your sin

- Say: So we have seen how repentance involves your mind. In order to truly repent, you must UNDERSTAND that you are a sinner and that God is merciful in Christ Jesus. But we can't stop there. The second part of our definition says that in order to truly repent, we must GRIEVE AND HATE OUR SIN.
 - Ask: Why do you think this is? What does it mean to grieve and hate our sin?
- **SKIT: REPENTANCE TAKE 2**
 - Say: Do you see how it is wrong to try and repent – to turn away from our sin and to turn towards God without having a grief and hatred of our sin? It is important to UNDERSTAND with your mind that you have sin and that God is merciful, but it is not enough. True repentance involves GRIEVING AND HATING our sin. It involves a sorrow where we begin to dislike our sin so much that we actually turn away from it in disgust, eager to turn TO GOD.
- Have students read the following verses
 - Joel 2:12-13 ¹² 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.
 - **2 Corinthians 7:8-11** ⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it-- I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.
 - Ask: How often would you say you respond to your sin in this manner. The language here is pretty intense – FASTING. WEEPING. MOURNING. SORROW. How often would you say that you respond to your sin in this way?

- Say: Think about the last time you MOURNED something. Maybe it was at a funeral. Maybe it was because of a broken relationship...or even something that you did. The picture that the Bible gives us of repentance is one of responding with great sorrow and hatred. Repentance involves our hearts.

Part 5: Repentance involves OBEYING GOD as you turn from your sin

- Say: We have looked at the first two parts of repentance, and see how they involve our mind (understanding our sin and God's mercy) and how they involve our hearts (hating and grieving over our sin). But even this is not enough. According to the Westminster catechism and the Bible, we must also repent by OBEYING GOD as you turn from your sin.
- **SKIT: REPENTANCE TAKE 3:**
 - Say: Once again, repentance makes no sense if it is incomplete. It doesn't matter how well you understand your sin and God's mercy and how much you hate and mourn over your sin. If you aren't going to DO anything about it, it isn't true repentance.
- Have students read the following passages
 - **Matthew 3:8-9** ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
 - **Acts 26:20** ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.
 - Say: According to Jesus and Paul, repentance was something that you would actually see in a person's life by the way they acted. If you truly turn away from sin, then your actions will be different. If you truly understand that you are a sinner and truly hate your sin, then you will begin to act differently.
 - Ask: Does this mean that you will never mess up and sin again (No).
 - Ask: What about someone who repents over the same sin over and over and over again – are they really repentant? (A: They definitely might be. In Luke 17:4, Jesus tells his disciples that even if a brother sins against them seven times in the same day [over and over and over again], and each time goes back and repents, then they are to forgive him. The same is true with us and God. If we are truly repentant, God will forgive us, even if we have to repent more than once over the same sin.)

Conclusion

- Say: We have been looking at the different pieces of salvation each week. We have talked about how God EFFECTIVELY CALLS and REGENERATES his people, and how we respond in FAITH. This week we have seen that repentance is another way we respond to God. Faith and repentance go together. It is impossible to truly have faith in God without truly repenting of your sin. Moreover, we have talked about how TRUE repentance involves all of who we are – our mind, our heart, and our actions.

- Let's pray now that God would grant us the strength to continue to live a life of repentance – a life where we understand our sin and God's mercy, where we grieve and hate our sin, and where we obey God as we turn from our sins.
- Close in prayer

Basic Christian Beliefs

Salvation: Pt. 3 (Repentance)

REVIEW

What have we been talking about for the last several weeks? _____

What analogy have we used to talk about all the various pieces of salvation and how they fit together? _____

What are the different parts of salvation we have talked about so far?

REPENTANCE

Our short definition repentance: Turning from _____ to _____

Westminster Shorter Catechism: "Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience."

3 PARTS OF REPENTANCE

Part #1: _____

This involves your _____ (mind, heart, or action)

What two things you must understand? 1) _____ 2) _____

Part #2: _____

This involves your _____ (mind, heart, or action)

What does it mean to mourn you sin? _____

Part #3: _____

This involves your _____ (mind, heart, or action)

Skit Narrative

BACKGROUND

Narrator: Person A and Person B are best friends (ACT). They have been best friends since they were babies (ACT). They were best friends in elementary school (ACT), and have continued to be best friends in middle school and high school. Person A and Person B always do everything together (ACT). In school, they always look out for each other. When Person A is being bullied, Person B always chases the bullies away (ACT). When Person B has trouble with his math homework, Person A helps him understand it to get a good grade (ACT). After school, Person A and Person B always play the same sports – currently they are playing football together (ACT). When Person A's family goes on vacation, Person B always comes along (ACT). When Person B has something difficult going on in his life (like girlfriend problems), Person A always is there for him. One day, Person B was at school hanging out with a new group of friends that he thought was really cool (ACT). Because they were popular crowd at school (ACT), and because Person B didn't normally hang out with the popular crowd, he wanted to be sure to impress them. That day, while Person B was hanging out with the popular crowd, Person A comes up to Person B to talk (ACT). The popular crowd immediately starts making fun of Person A (ACT). While Person B didn't want to make fun of Person A, he went along with it to impress the popular crowd, even laughing harder at Person A than anything of the rest of the Popular crowd. He even gets carried away and pushes Person A away from the crowd and calls him a sissy (ACT). Person A is embarrassed and runs away from the popular crowd (ACT). Later on that day, Person B meets up with Person A after school like he does every day. Unlike every other day, however, on this day Person A is furious at Person B when they meet up (ACT).

Now STOP!!! Okay, we have now seen what happened here – what happened between Person A and Person B. Person B wanted to impress others and so he made fun of Person A. He betrayed him. In fact, in putting himself first, Person B sinned against Person A. Now, what we want to look at closely is how person B responds. We want to see closely whether or not Person B repents of his actions.

REPENTANCE, TAKE 1:

Person A (Angry and upset): How could you do that to me today? I was totally embarrassed! And I have been mad all day! I can't believe you betrayed me like that!

Person B (Angry and defensive): What are you talking about?" What did I do? I didn't do anything

Person A (Angry) What did you DO??? Are you serious??? You made fun of me in front of everybody today. You embarrassed me!

Person B (Annoyed) Whatever man. I didn't do anything. You need to get over it. You need to learn to take a joke.

Person A (Angry) That's it man. We're done as friends.

REPENTANCE, TAKE 2:

Person A (Angry and upset): How could you do that to me today? I was totally embarrassed! And I have been mad all day! I can't believe you betrayed me like that!

Person B (completely UN-interested, yawning, acts completely casual): Yep. You're right, I shouldn't have done it. (Shrugs his shoulders)

Person A (Even more angry at how this isn't bothering his friend) Is that all you can say??? You REALLY made my day miserable today.

Person B (becoming annoyed): I told you it was wrong. What more do you want?

Person A (Angry) I want you to actually care that it humiliated me!

Person B (rolls his eyes) Hey, alright. Fine. I care. Are you happy now. Look its no big deal. It probably won't happen again.

Person A (Furious): "No big deal???" Are you kidding me! You really embarrassed me and made me look like a fool. And you couldn't care less! That's it man, We're done as friends.

REPENTANCE, TAKE 3:

Person A (Angry and upset): How could you do that to me today? I was totally embarrassed! And I have been mad all day! I can't believe you betrayed me like that!

Person B (Genuinely sorry): Hey, I'm really sorry man. It was wrong of me, man. I AM sorry. I'd be embarrassed and mad too if I was you.

Person A (a little bit more calm): Well, thanks for apologizing. I WAS pretty mad. But I've done jerky things to you before to

Person B: (thankful for his friend's forgiveness) Wow. Thanks for understanding, man. Again, I'm really sorry.

Person A: (calm) Nah, don't worry about it. (Laughs) Just please don't do THAT to me again, alright?

Person B: (Surprised). Don't do that again? (Frowns). Are you serious?

Person A: (Becoming angry) Of course I'm serious! That was really awful today. I don't want you to do it AGAIN!

Person B: (confused). Uh...well...I'm gonna.

Person A: (More angry) You're gonna WHAT?

Person B: (Matter-of-factly) I'm gonna do it again. You can't expect me NOT to. That's the popular crowd. If they think I'm friends with you there's no way they will let me hang out with them.

Person A: (Angry) Well stop hanging out with them.

Person B: (Angry) No way man. They're POPULAR.

Person A: (Angry) That's it man. We're done as friends.