

“The Marks of Repentance”

2 Corinthians 7:10-16

I. Marks of Repentance

A) What is Repentance?

: a change of mind leading to a _____ of _____.

B) What does it Look Like?

- 1) worldly sorrow v. godly sorrow
- 2) “Earnestness” (repentance is ultimately a gift Acts 5:31; 11:18)
- 3) 6 marks following Earnestness
- 4) Biblical Repentance is Visible/ Plain (see Luke 3:3; Acts 26:20)

II. The Why of Repentance

A) God’s Rationale (Romans 2:4; Luke 13:3; 2 Corinthians 7:9)

B) The Corinthian Situation (it is “good for you” see Acts 3:19)

III. Some Questions you might be Asking

A) Questions you Might be Considering

- 1) *How is God great in this passage? What is happening that only God could do?*
- 2) *What if someone goes through the motions of repentance (‘they say the words’) but these 7 things mentioned in the passage aren’t particularly apparent, should I receive that as genuine?*
 - a) be patient
 - b) Luke 17:3-4
 - i) ‘pay attention to yourselves’; ii) if they say ‘I repent’ - called to take it at face value ...
- 3) *What if I am ‘trying to repent’ and I don’t “feel” these seven marks very strongly?*
 - a) be patient, you can’t drum up genuine repentance
 - b) it takes grace
 - c) emotion follows obedience, not obedience follows emotion - God measures by obedience (Mt 21:28 two sons in the vineyard)
- 4) *What do I do if there is no reconciliation?*
- 5) *How can I biblically repent?*
 - 1) be specific
 - 2) own your sin (don’t try to include their sin in your confession)
 - 3) use biblical terminology - gospel language
 - 4) if they say, ‘that’s OK’ - gently, humbly say, ‘I appreciate your kindness, but not OK’

B) Questions for You To Consider

- 1) *Are you making it easy for others to repent? (Approachable?, ‘I told you so!’, self- righteous?)*
God’s response = 1 John 1:9
- 2) *Do you demand the full effect of the 7 marks before you are willing to forgive?*
 - i) be gracious! ii) Don’t be surprised!
- 3) *Are you regularly repenting? When was the last time you repented of something?*