

Signs of Genuine Repentance

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Is “I’m sorry” enough?

Repentance happens in the heart- unseen. How can we judge if repentance is present?

Lk 3:8; Matt 3:8 “Bring forth fruit in keeping of repentance”

not rituals (baptism) Pharisees Sadducees

Fruit inspectors **Matt 7:16-20** (judging – **Lk 7:43; 12:57; Jn 7:24**)

2 Tim 2:22-26 It is God who brings true repentance!

The original condition of the human heart is it loves the darkness, rather than the light.
John 3:19-21. Those who are saved have the heart of Jesus and love the light, shun the darkness.

There are 2 Kinds of Repentance

Gospel/Justification R. over “sin” Sanctification R. over “sins”

Signs of Genuine Repentance

1. Humility, Brokenness

Accepts consequences (isolation by previous friends, lack of intimacy, fellowship, position, etc.) Jesus accepts consequences of bearing sin- patient, knowing reconciliation will come. Psa 22

Doesn’t expect grace or mercy. Knows what he deserves, and rejoices IF grace comes, whatever level. Grace is a gift from one offended, who should desire justice!

Doesn’t make demands, has adjusted expectations (I’ll do this, but I expect THIS!)

Repentance recognizes personal unworthiness.

“. . . [I] am no more worthy to be called thy son . . .” Prodigal son Lk 15:19

Willing to face the hurt, anger, cries of those offended, hear their pain (feel it?)

Doesn’t slip out of fellowship to avoid consequences, “I can’t go there anymore.

Everyone looks at me funny. I have to go where no one knows me or what I’ve done.”

We seek our comfort in the grace of God in Jesus Christ, not simply in being free of the consequences of our sin.

2. Honest Confession (no excuses)

Owens sin, confesses as far as sin has offended (ripples in water) (man deacon voyeurism)

What if someone is easily offended?

If found out, we confess immediately or very soon after and “come clean,” rather than having to have the full truth pulled from us. Real repentance is typically accompanied by transparency.

We are willing to confess our sin even in the face of serious consequences (including undergoing church discipline, having to go to jail, or having a spouse leave us).

3. Hates his sin

Wants to cleave to the light and avoid the darkness.

“Both forms of deception (self-deception and other-deception) are dangerous, because they may indicate that you are not of the Light, and thus cause you to continue to walk in darkness. To walk in the light is to have the cleansing of Christ’s blood applied to your life. If there is only darkness in you, you have not been cleansed by the death of Christ. A love for light is kindled by love for the Savior’s fellowship. By doing those things that are characterized by light you fellowship with the Savior who also walks the path of the righteous. Fellowship isn’t felt; it is known by faith in God’s Word. Don’t look for mysterious feelings. Walk in the light and you may be sure of His presence along the road.” *Day By Day Along the Way, daily devotional, Day 38; Jay E. Adams, Timeless Texts.*

4. Welcomes accountability

Volunteers for it! Can I get a witness! (TX guy. I’ll break the relationship!)

1. Makes daily contact (phone, text, email)
2. Asks penetrating, tough questions
3. Gives grace, but no mercy!
4. Sees the accountability partner as a disciple

A genuinely repentant person does not resent accountability, pastoral rebuke, or church discipline.

(Hosea 6:1-2, emphasis added)

5. Overwhelming Desire to Make Restitution

Zaccheus – half of my pay to the poor, and if I’ve defrauded anyone of anything I restore 4 times the amount. **Luke 19:8** I’ll not only make it right; I’ll do far more.

Did Jesus do far more for us?

Repentant people are patient with those we’ve hurt or victimized, spending as much time as is required listening to them without jumping to defend ourselves.

We are patient with those we’ve hurt or victimized as they process their hurt, and we don’t pressure them or “guilt” them into forgiving us.

6. Continues serving God

Active in one-anothering

Serving in whatever capacity he or she is qualified for

Signs of Worldly Sorrow and Regret (no repentance)

NOT REPENTANT	REPENTANT
Makes demands	No demands
Avoids accountability	Desires accountability
Withholds truth	Tells all
Concerned about how he is treated	Dies to self Luke 9:23
Doesn’t care about prayer	Prays more than ever
Unwilling to read Bible	Reads Bible a lot Psa 111:19
Makes excuses often	No excuses
Didn’t confess until caught	Confessed before caught Prov 28:13
Has all the answers already	Teachable
Admits self-deception Jer 17:9	Willing to learn his “blind spots”
Plays with fire	Avoids the fire/ “lead me not into temptation”
Sorrow over the consequences	Rejoices in God’s chastisement Heb 12:4-13
Has a light attitude towards sin	Does not continue in the sin
Is defensive about what he did	Acknowledges his sin easily
Resents doubts about his sincerity	Eager to demonstrate sincerity often
(Especially in cases involving repeated offenses)	ADD MORE??

2 Tim 2:22-26 It is God who brings true repentance! It is all about Him! (Fruit of HS work)

Devil deceives with a worldly sorrow – it is all about you! **2 Cor 2:1-10; 7:8-13**