

## A CHANGE OF HEART

Introduction – The word translated “repent” literally means a change of heart/mind/attitude. There are three common misunderstandings about the meaning of repentance. The translators of the original Greek of the Bible into Latin used the word “penance,” which leads to a misunderstanding of this concept in the Roman Catholic Church. Protestants have identified this word with conversion or a turning to God. The secular world thinks it means showing remorse, sorrow, or being sorry for one’s behavior.

A. Repentance is not remorse.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

1. Remorse or sorrow precedes repentance.
2. There are two types of sorrow with radically different results.
3. Godly sorrow produces eagerness, indignation, alarm, longing, concern, and a readiness to see justice done.

B. Repentance is not the same idea as conversion or turning to the Lord.

Acts 3:17-19

1. Real repentance leads to one turning to the Lord for forgiveness and direction.
2. Repentance is not an end in itself, but leads to a transformed life.
3. A change of heart leads to a change of direction for our lives.

C. Repentance is not the same as penance.

Luke 3:7-14

1. Penance is an act of self-mortification or devotion performed to show sorrow for sin.
2. This new attitude must be translated into tangible righteous behaviors.
3. *What should we do then?* (v. 10)
4. We are not judging others when we become fruit inspectors.

Conclusion – Repentance is not a single event at our conversion to Christ. It is the ongoing process of maturation essential for our salvation. ...*But we have the mind of Christ* (1 Corinthians 2:16c).

Philippians 2:5

Romans 12:2