

Will Repentance Radically Change Our Thinking and Living?

Focus: Repentance leads to new thinking, new desires, and new life in Christ.

Key Verse: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: **Something is very wrong!** Among the 2.6 billion in the world who identify as Christian, over 50% ☹️support legalized abortion, ☹️support same-sex marriage, and ☹️believe in faith plus works for salvation!

All three positions oppose foundational Biblical teachings:

- **Life** – God’s precious gift: See **Exodus 21:22-25**
- **Family** – male and female: See **Genesis 1:27-28**
- **Salvation** – By grace alone through faith alone: See **Gal. 5:2-5; [Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven?](#)**

Christians are **not** those who *identify* as Christians, **but** those who *live lives of repentance in harmony with God’s word!*

Today’s question: **Will repentance radically change our thinking and living?** I hope you know the answer: **YES!**

1. **Do Not Be Deceived:** A few key passages:

- a. **1 John 1:6** “If we **say** that we have fellowship with Him **and yet** walk [live] in the darkness [in unrepentance], we lie and do not practice the truth...”
// Our **SAYING** and **DOING** must be in **HARMONY!**

- b. **1 John 2:3–4** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does **not** keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is **not** in him... // **Thinking** and **feeling** *can deceive us!*
- c. **1 John 3:7–8** “Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who **practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous; the one who **practices sin is of the devil...**” // *Actions reveal truth!*

2. **Repentance Calls for Change:**

- a. **Acts 26:20** [Paul:] “...repent [have godly sorrow, turn from your sins] and turn to God [in faith], performing deeds consistent with repentance.” // **Why?** To show that the Spirit has worked repentance in our hearts!
- b. **2 Corinthians 6:17** [After identifying major differences between believers and unbelievers, Paul quoted:] “Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; **And** [then] **I will welcome you.**”
- c. **Ephesians 4:22–32** “...in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self...,²⁴ and... **put on the new self...** **[What does that mean?]**²⁵ ...**SPEAK TRUTH** EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR...²⁶ **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN...**²⁸ ...**labor**, producing with [your] own hands what is good...²⁹ **Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth...**³⁰ **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God** [by rejecting Him].³¹ **[Stop]** All bitterness, wrath, anger, [shouting], and [speaking evil]..., along with all [hatefulness].³² **Be kind** to one another, **compassionate, forgiving**

each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." // Let's ✦examine ourselves and ✦repent!

d. **Galatians 5:19–23**

- i. Ways of the unrepentant: **19-21** "...sexual immorality, [moral uncleanness], indecent behavior, idolatry [*created things over the Creator*], witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions [*disunity*], factions [*holding beliefs contrary to the Bible*], envy, drunkenness, carousing... **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**"
- ii. Ways of the repentant: **22-23** "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." // *Let's grow in such!*

3. **An Example of Radical Change – Zaccheus:** **Luke 19:1–10**

- a. Who Was Zaccheus? ¹ **Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.** ² **And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich.** // Zaccheus ✦worked for the Romans, ✦took his income from the tax collectors who worked under him, ✦was very wealthy, ✦was hated by the Jews, and ✦was a leader among sinners.
- b. Why Did Zaccheus Climb a Tree? ³ **Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was** [*His reputation preceded Him*], **and he was unable due to the crowd, because he was short in stature.** ⁴ **So he ran on ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree in order to see Him, because He was about to pass through that way.** // Since Zaccheus was a wee little man and could not get to the front, *he climbed a tree so he could see.*

- c. Why Did Jesus Single Out Zaccheus? ⁵ **And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”** ⁶ **And he hurried and came down, and received Him joyfully.** // Jesus went to Jericho to find and save this lost, dead, leading sinner.
- d. Why Did People Complain? ⁷ **When the people saw this, they all began to complain, saying, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!”** // Two thoughts: (1) since we are better, *He should have been our guest*; (2) Jesus is flawed, *since He is willing to be the guest of this rotten chief tax collector*.
- e. Does Repentance Include BIG changes? **Yes!** ⁸ **But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much.”** // *Radical changes!*
- f. Can Jesus Save the BIGGEST Sinners? **Yes!** ⁹ **And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.** ¹⁰ **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”** // Jesus ✦sought Zaccheus and ✦found him! Son of Abraham? Regardless of bloodline, all who are trusting in Jesus for eternal life are sons of Abraham ([Gal. 3:7](#))!

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, *TYSM for saving us!* Keep our thinking and living ***in harmony with genuine repentance!***

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