



JOURNEY
TO THE
CROSS

Repentance

Repentance is a turn-around, or an about-face. A change of mind and attitude. It's both a turning from and a turning to.



“God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.” Romans 2:4

“God is kind, but he’s not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.” *The Message*



“Repent, for the kingdom of God has
come near”

Matthew 4:17

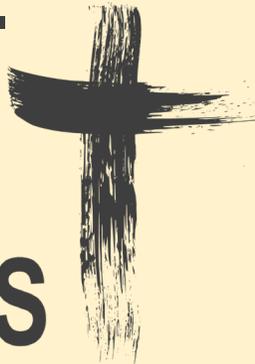


“The word “repentance” often has a negative connotation. To say that someone needs to repent implies that they have done something really bad, and should feel really bad about it.



While that may be true in some respect, the call to repentance is fundamentally good news. One Bible commentator says, “repentance from the beginning of time to this present hour has been, and remains, the most positive Word from the heart of God.”

Journey to the Cross



1. True repentance is freedom from self-improvement



1. True repentance is freedom from self-improvement
2. True repentance is freedom from sin's control



“If we claim that we’re free of sin, we’re only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—simply come clean about them—God won’t let us down; he’ll be true to himself. He’ll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.”

1 John 1:8-9 *The Message*



“Moment by moment, God is graciously seeking a restored relationship with us. Still, many of us go about our lives bound up, fearful of fully disclosing our sin and “coming clean.”



If this is the case, it is likely that our perception of God is such that we feel threatened or unsafe. When we view God as an angry God who needs to be appeased by our confession, we are unable to see confession as a loving initiative toward intimacy. Feelings of guilt, shame, and fear overwhelm us. But we can change our minds!”



“Even now,” declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ 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.



I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten - You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.



Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

Joel 2: 12-13, 25-29, 32



1. True repentance is freedom from self-improvement
2. True repentance is freedom from sin's control
3. True repentance is freedom to live humbly with others



“Christ’s love controls us. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.



... All of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.



For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.”

2 Cor 5:14-19 NLT

