# Outline Twelve: Repentance, Justification and Sanctification

True Christian repentance involves a heartfelt conviction of sin, a contrition over the offense to God, a turning away from the sinful way of life, and a turning towards a God-honoring way of life.

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper. But, he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion” (Prov. 28:13 OT)**.**

God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)**.** The sinner must repent before he can become the recipient of salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8, 9)**.** The saved must practice repentance if he is to enjoy unbroken fellowship with God (Job 42:1-6 OT).

***Repentance is granted by God*** (Acts 5:31 and Acts 11:18). “The kindness of God leads you to repentance” (Rom. 2:4). *This gift of repentance is an inward change produced by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit* as the Word of God is proclaimed (Acts 2:37, 38; and John 16:7,11)**.** The results, “repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21); faith that Christ died for our sins; and that He was buried and that He rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

**Repentance qualifies a man for salvation**, but it takes a faith in Christ to acquire it. True repentance is always coupled with faith. It is impossible to have saving faith and not repent. “Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21) are essential and inseparable in salvation.

Faith without repentance is the ultimate of hypocrisy and repentance without faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is sheer folly.

what repentance is:

1. A change. The change is always evidenced in three elements.
   1. The intellectual element, a change of mind.
   2. The emotional element, a change of heart.
   3. The volitional element, a change of will.
2. The parable of the prodigal is a perfect illustration of repentance. He had a change of mind, a change of heart, and a change of will (Luke 15:11-32).
   1. The intellectual element, “He came to his senses.”
   2. The emotional element, “I have sinned.”
   3. The volitional element, “I will get up and go to my father.”

Guilt and Repentance are different: Godly sorrow/guilt can lead to repentance. 2 Cor 7:10. True Repentance is a Transformation

Repentance is a change. The prodigal had a change of mind; and his change of mind effected a change of heart; and his change of heart effected a change of will. No one is ever saved until he wills to be (Rev. 22:17). Repentance is change of mind, of heart, and of will.

Repentance was preached in the Old Testament before the birth of Christ, and during the life and during the life and ministry of Christ. It was preached on the day of Pentecost, and in the Book of Acts after Pentecost. It is taught in the Epistles and the Book of Revelation. It is a doctrine to be preached and practiced in all dispensations.

* 1. John the Baptist preached repentance.
  2. Jesus preached repentance.
  3. Peter preached repentance.
  4. Paul preached repentance.

**Everyone should Repent.**

1. The lost are to repent or perish. Jesus said, “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matt. 9:13). Again, He said, “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3-5).
2. Backsliders are to repent or to be disciplined. Paul said, “I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance” (2 Cor. 7:9). There were fleshly Christians in the church at Corinth. In Paul’s first letter to them he called upon the church to discipline the guilty. In his second letter he rejoices because the guilty repented.
3. Local churches are to repent or lose its effectiveness in a world lost in sin. In the Book of Revelation (Rev. 2-3), our Lord sent seven letters to seven local churches. He called upon five of the seven to repent.

Repentance is the way provided for us to become free from our sins and receive forgiveness for them. Sins slow our spiritual progression and can even stop it. Repentance makes it possible for us to grow and develop spiritually again.

**Justification** refers to God’s declaration that someone is determined to be righteous in his sight. This justification is a one-time act whereby God declares a sinner like you and me to be not only not guilty but perfectly righteous before his high bar of justice. How does God does this and maintain his justice? The basis for the divine declaration is the doing and dying of Christ. God credits (or imputes) us with the righteousness (merit) of Jesus. We are justified by grace (a gift) through faith (trusting in Jesus). [Rom. 3.24; 4.1-5; 5.1](https://www.esv.org/verses/Rom.%203.24%3B%204.1-5%3B%205.1/); [2 Cor. 5.21](https://www.esv.org/verses/2%20Cor.%205.21/), [Tit. 3.7](https://www.esv.org/verses/Tit.%203.7/). Justification is what happened to you when you were born again.  You were made righteous when you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. He provided right-standing with God for you at the Cross.

**We can see it as Sanctification,** on the other hand, is the continual process of being made more holy. It is the progressive conformity of the one who has been justified into the image of their Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. Like justification, sanctification is a work of grace through faith. And, sanctification is possible because of the finished work of Christ on our behalf. [Rom. 6; 8](https://www.esv.org/verses/Rom.%206%3B%208/); [Tit. 3.5](https://www.esv.org/verses/Tit.%203.5/); [1 Thess. 4.3, 5.23](https://www.esv.org/verses/1%20Thess.%204.3%2C%205.23/); [Heb. 12.14](https://www.esv.org/verses/Heb.%2012.14/); [2 Pet. 3.18](https://www.esv.org/verses/2%20Pet.%203.18/); [Jud. 1.20](https://www.esv.org/verses/Jud.%201.20/).

We are righteous in front of God because of Christ’s atonement, that is our state or position in Him, and, we are also sanctified/ made holy by the Spirit. However, Sanctification/Holiness is continual process. Bible commands us to live a holy life because he is Holy. As we live our lives in Christ, our holiness increases as we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit within us and follow this command.

1. Hate Sin and Love God’s Holiness
2. Do not live for the world but for Christ.
3. Flee away from Temptation and walk in the Spirit