

WHEN A PERSON SINS, IS JUST SAYING “I’M SORRY” GOD’S PLAN OF REPENTANCE?

Taking this question at “face value,” the Bible answer is NO. If all one does is simply say “I apologize” or “I’m sorry,” then one has not truly repented. Even though saying “I apologize” or “I’m sorry” is a part of repentance, Bible repentance involves more than simply saying “I’m sorry.”

The definition of repentance is: *“to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider, feel compunction.”* Thayer’s Greek English Lexicon says: *“To change one’s mind, to change one’s mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins.”*

If this person simply said “I’m sorry” and did not have a “change of mind” nor sought to make restitution, then he has not truly repented. If, on the other hand, his statement of saying “I apologize,” “I’m sorry,” was accompanied with a change of mind which leads him to a change of life where he seeks to amend his wrong, then he truly did repent.

What may (or may not) be involved here is a failure on the part of one or more of not being willing to accept the repentance of the one that sinned. It is sometimes the case that when one repents and makes that known to those involved and the church, that some will not accept it. In that case, the one(s) at fault are those who will not accept another’s repentance! Jesus said, *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him”* (Luke 17:3-4).

If we are not to accept one’s statement of apology saying “I’m sorry,” what else would we have them do? Must they get on their knees and beg our forgiveness? Do

we put them on trial to see if they really meant it? What would we have them do? When someone repents saying I’m sorry and seeks to amend their wrong, we must accept it unless we have strong evidence to the contrary. It is not mine or yours to judge a person’s motive or heart. Jesus said, *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again”* (Matthew 7:1-2).

Garland M. Robinson from *East End Bulletin*

SHOULD WE BAPTIZE SOMEONE WHO IS LIVING IN ADULTERY? CAN THEY BE SAVED?

The Lord is *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (II Peter 3:9). Jesus’ death on the cross shows God’s willingness to forgive even the vilest of sins. Jesus died for all men (Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:8).

The Lord will forgive the sin of adultery and gives us a Bible example of it. Some of the members of the church at Corinth had been adulterers before they obeyed the Gospel. However, Paul said *“...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified...”* (I Corinthians 6:9-11). Repentance is the “key” to forgiveness of the sin of living in adultery and all other sins (Col. 3:5). God will not and can not forgive anyone who does not repent of their sins.

There are occasions when it is right to refuse to baptize a person who desires to be baptized. For example, how can a person be baptized who says he/she “is not” and “will not” repent of their sins—when they say they will not stop their sinful practice? We should not baptize a thief who says “I’m going to keep on stealing,” a liar who says “I’m going to keep on lying,” a drunkard who says “I’m going to keep on drinking,” or a homosexual who

says “I’m going to keep on living in sodomy/homosexuality.” So why would we baptize a person who says “I’m going to keep on living in adultery?” Such individuals refuse to repent. And, without repentance, the blood of Christ (contacted in water baptism, Romans 6:3-18) cannot wash away sins. John refused to baptize some who came to him to be baptized. They were told to *“bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”* (Matthew 3:8).

One who keeps on committing sin is living in sin. Colossians 3:5-7 tells us to stop *“...fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”*

One can be forgiven of any sin, but only when he turns from it. Acts 2:38 says to **repent and be baptized for the remission of sins**. Do you want to be forgiven? Then repent of adultery, fornication, homosexuality (sodomy) and every other sin and turn from it. Are you ready to repent?

Garland M. Robinson from *East End Bulletin*

Plan to be here for each day of our

Gospel Meeting

Toney Smith

April 9-13, 2006

Sunday 9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

Monday – Thursday 7:00 pm

Wednesday Class 10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Edwards, 03-28; Clara Scott, 03-29.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards (AM), Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Anne and Dee Adams, Millie Robertson.

Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Jeff Nemechek in the passing of his aunt of Salina, KS last Sunday, Leslie Simmons in the passing of her grandfather of Boise, ID on Tuesday, and Gary Cole in the passing of his cousin of Cherokee, OK on Wednesday.

OUT OF TOWN

The Stillwell's were in Arkansas over the weekend. Myron Nebergall was in Arkansas with his brother.

MENS BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, April 2, following our AM worship.

MEETING MEAL

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 9 to correspond with our Gospel Meeting.

MEETING PREPARATION

Please check the list on the bulletin board and sign up to help in the preparation of our building and grounds for our Spring Gospel Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 74; Sunday PM, 54; Wednesday PM, 48.

Those To Serve

March 26, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas

OPENING PRAYER Myron Nebergall

PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek

ASSIST..... John Carter

ASSIST..... Allen Scott

CLOSING PRAYER..... Michael Simmons

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Charles Tullis

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Carter

LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 29th

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing

INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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