



Repenting from Sin

Christian First Principles #6

OPEN

(5-10 minutes)

Have you ever driven the wrong way down a one-way street?

DIG

(20-25 minutes)

Read Luke 13:1-5; Acts 26:19-20; 2 Peter 3:8-9

1. The prevailing wisdom of Jesus' day was that bad things happen to bad people. Why did people think that way back then? Do people still think that way today?
2. In what ways are sins alike? In what ways are sins different?

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|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| separation from God | guilty pleasure | trying God's patience |
| damaging to our reputation | damaging to others | the need for repentance |
3. What does it mean for someone to "come to" repentance (Ref. 2 Peter 3:9)?

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| to feel bad about their sins | to develop the willingness to repent |
| to maintain a spirit of repentance | to say "I'm sorry" |

REFLECT

(25-30 minutes)

1. For which sins do you have zero tolerance? Which sins are you able to tolerate? Why?

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|---------------|--------|-------------|------------|
| murder | gossip | lying | infidelity |
| homosexuality | pride | drunkenness | gluttony |
| cursing | envy | greed | hypocrisy |
2. How does it make you feel to know that it is just as important for you to repent of your *minor* sins as it is for someone else to repent of their *major* sins? *"unless you repent, you too will all perish"* (Lk 13:3, 5). Angry? Frightened? Humbled? Cheated? Repentant?
3. How can you prove you've repented of gossip? of lying? of drunkenness? of infidelity?
4. Some sins can't be undone, like murder. What are some ways you might counsel a person to prove their repentance from a sin they cannot make right?
5. If God gave you the power and authority to create the world, then destroy the world, and finally to redeem the world, which would you take the most time doing, and why?
6. If you were in charge of the timing for Christ's return and the Judgment that follows, would you start the process now? Why? Would you wait? Why? How long would you wait?
7. Which aspect of repentance is most challenging to you: understanding the seriousness of sin, feeling grief over sin, or making a determined effort not to commit sin.

PRAYER TIME - Thank God for His patience, and for His willingness to accept your genuine repentance, no matter how grave the sin. Ask God to strengthen your spirit of repentance.