

Commands of Christ - Repent

Matt. 4:17 ... Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Key Question – Why did Esau find no place of repentance for simply selling his birthright and David found forgiveness for adultery and murder?

- Is repentance a one-time or continual act?
- Three concepts of repentance:
 - A change of mind about our sins
 - A change of emotions about them
 - A change of direction in walking away from them

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•Commands for All People to Repent

- Eze. 14:6 ... Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!
- Acts 3:19 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
- Acts 17:30-31 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. ...
- Acts 26:20 ... I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

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- Repentance is based on the awareness that every word, thought, and action will be revealed and judged.
 - 2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

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- Similarities between Esau and David.
 - Both descended from Abraham – the “father of faith”.
 - Both were “men of the field”.
 - Both satisfied a physical desire in the wrong way.
 - Both despised the commandment of the Lord.
 - Both exchanged spiritual treasures for temporal pleasures.
 - Both wept over their sins.
 - Both suffered consequences that affected future generations.

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- Esau's repentance did not deal with real issues that mattered to God
- Esau wept tears of regret over the loss of blessings
- David wept tears of repentance over the damage to his relationship with God
- True repentance prepares the way for total restoration of broken relationships

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- 5 key principles of repentance

1. Recognize God's presence – realizing that God is watching and weighing our every word, thought, and deed.
2. Change our minds – who will control our lives
3. Grieve in our hearts over sin – Isa. 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

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- 5 key principles of repentance

4. Walk away from sin – Rom. 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
5. Take action directed by God – Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

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- How can we increase a spirit of repentance
 - Meditate on Psalm 51
- Evidence of repentance
 - Matt. 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

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- Character related to Repentance
 - Humility vs. pride – Humility is recognizing that in myself I am nothing and have nothing, and therefore, everything in life is a gift from God's hand.
 - Humility is the natural response of being in the presence of God.
- Name of God related to Repentance
 - The Lord Is a Holy God – Jos. 24:19 He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ...