

“The Christian who has stopped repenting has stopped growing” – *John Blanchard*

Shorter Catechism Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.

1. A False Repentance to Avoid

- Not all repentance is genuine – 2 Cor 7:10, Matt 27:3-5
- Types of false repentance:
 - Repentance based solely on fear of Hell
 - Repentance because of loss, or embarrassment
 - Repentance that wont forsake all sin

2. True repentance is turning every area of life Christ-wards

- 2 main parts: Turning from sin & Turning to Jesus
- Not simply being sorry, but now actively following Jesus
- 6 hallmarks of true repentance (See SC Q87)
 - Do you see your sins as a serious offence against God? – Ps 40:12
 - Or are they minor misdemeanours?
 - Does your sin cause you grief? – Ps 51:17 Do you hate it? – 2 Cor 7:11
 - Or does it bring a measure of enjoyment?
 - Do you engage in honest confession? – Prov 28:13
 - Or do you find excuses to justify it?
 - Do you forsake your sin & throw yourself on Christ’s mercy? – Ps 130:4
 - Or do you presume on his forgiveness?
 - Do you seek to follow and live for King Jesus? – Matt 3:8
 - Or do you just want Jesus for forgiveness?
 - Are you still repenting?

3. Blessings that flow from repentance

- A closer awareness of God
- It makes us fit to serve God
- It makes our worship acceptable
- It gives us a greater awareness of God’s love and mercy
- It opens the door to blessings - on individual & church
- It staves off judgement
- It causes joy in Heaven
- It prepares us to face our deathbed
- It removes a stumbling block to others salvation
- It breaks the hold of sin

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