
QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

True Repentance

1. Why is church discipline so rare today in the modern church?

2. Pastor Paul Zagrobski shared a few thoughts with the elders on Thursday night describing a “good church.” Can you think of any others to add to the list below? If so, please give your ideas to him.
 - a. A high view of God
 - b. A belief in the authority of scripture
 - c. Loving one another
 - d. Personal holiness and purity
 - e. Practicing church discipline

3. Many Christians are struggling with life dominating sins. These are sins which recur on a regular basis and are habitual and powerful. What advice would you give to a person in this type of situation? How can our church help individuals who struggle with this?

TRUE REPENTANCE

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Genuine repentance will make itself evident by its deeds and attitudes.

The repentant person will be marked by the following six characteristics:

1. He/she will have a **REPENTANT HEART** .

Psalm 24:3-5—Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Luke 3:8—Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Acts 26:20—...but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

2. He/she will freely ACKNOWLEDGE their SIN .

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13—He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

3. He/she will CEASE the activity for which they were disciplined or at least SEEK HELP if it's a case of life dominating patterns.

Proverbs 28:13—He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Galatians 6:1—Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

James 5:19-20—Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

4. He/she will make RESTITUTION and ask for FORGIVEESS form those hurt as it is applicable.

Matthew 5:23-24—Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

5. He/she will demonstrate a genuine CHANGE of heart, a real concern and godly sorrow over their actions, not in order to be forgiven, but because of the harm caused to the GLORY of GOD and the hurt caused others.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11—For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Psalms 51:17—The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.

6. He/she will begin to manifest the FRUIT of the SPIRIT and a concern for the things of CHRIST .

Galatians 5:22-23—But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law..

Colossians 3:1-4—If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.