

Sermon Title: Heart of Repentance
Sermon Series: Biblical Forgiveness
Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-15, Psalm 51, Acts
2:37-38
Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



You make a mistake or sin...

You have an **excuse**.

You **deny** your part in the problem.

You **minimize**.

Confession or Repentance.

Confession always recognizes the inescapable sinfulness of sin.

Confession - admitting personal responsibility for your words and actions, without excuse of any kind or shifting the blame to anyone else.

Repentance - genuine contriteness toward the one who has been offended.

2 Samuel 12:1-15 ESV

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’ ” David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” Then Nathan went to his house.

And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick.

All sin has consequences.

Because Jesus died for you, you must have a heart of _____.

Psalm 51 ESV

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
then will you delight in right sacrifices,

in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 51:1 ESV

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:1–2 ESV

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

Three types of offenses:

- 1. Transgression**
- 2. Iniquity**
- 3. Sin**

Transgression is a spirit of rebellion.

- It's putting yourself in God's place & writing your own rules.
- It's wanting your own way more than submitting to God's way.

Iniquity is moral uncleanness.

- This runs deeper than rebellion.
- Iniquity is the thing that causes rebellion.

Titus 1:15 ESV

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

Sin is an instance of weakness or failure.

- The word *sin* denotes falling short of God's wise and righteous standard.
- It's more than pulling the bowstring back and missing the target.

• It's pulling the bowstring back again & again & again...every time, falling short of the target.

A heart of repentance requires a:

1. _____ Heart

Psalm 51:4 ESV

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

2. _____ Heart

Psalm 51:3 ESV

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

“Truly repentant people are overwhelmed with the rebelliousness and destructiveness of what they have done, while at the same time, they are blown away by the magnitude and consistency of God’s mercy and grace.”—Paul Tripp

3. _____ Heart

Psalm 51:10–12 ESV

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Acts 2:37–38 ESV

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confession & repentance are God's welcome to enter into a deeper experience of the majesty of His grace.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read [2 Samuel 12:1-15](#).

- In what ways did God use Nathan as an instrument of grace in David's life?
- What was significant about David's response?
- What does this text tell you about God's forgiveness?
- What does it convey about consequences for sin?

2. Read [Psalm 51](#).

- What do you notice about David's prayer of confession and repentance?
- What is the nature of David's heart?
- In what ways is David trusting God in the surrendering of his sin?

3. In the last week, how have you transgressed God's law, rebelling in spirit against Him?

4. How could you better distinguish between *transgression*, *iniquity*, and *sin* in your life?

5. When was the last time you confessed your iniquity or your general impurity to God? If this is not a regular part of your life, how might you incorporate it more often?

6. Does your confession of sin often feel like a cry for help? Why or why not?

7. How can our group pray for you this week?