



SONS & DAUGHTERS
Repentance in Relationship
Week 7

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Kasey Crawford and Elevation Church.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

- Here's what I did: expressed my frustration publicly

- Here's why it was wrong: implicated people publicly, which was unfair
- Here's why I'm sorry: because it caused offense

Now, most of you probably think you just witnessed repentance, but what you actually witnessed was the fruit of repentance. I thought the same thing until this last week. That's why I'm convinced that we think we understand repentance better than we really do.

So, today we're going to look at three mistaken ideas we have about repentance.

Big Idea: Repentance is relational.

Matthew 3:7-8

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

John the Baptist distinguished repentance from its fruit. They are not one in the same. Fruit is the product of repentance. It's a mistaken idea that the fruit is the repentance.

1. Repentance and fruit are not the same thing.

If we define fruit as repentance, then we've just made repentance all about behavior. Now, if you're like me, you're going, "Well, it is about behavior, isn't it?"

Not according to John the Baptist.

As many of you know the meaning of the word repent is to change one's mind. So, this is the idea. If your mind has really been changed, then this will manifest itself in the behavioral fruit of that change of mind.

Now, why is that distinction important?

Do you ever wonder why we repent of something only to do it again later? Why do we repent and then repeat the behavior? Well,

we mistake repentance as what you just witnessed — that I confessed what I did, why it was wrong and why I was sorry. We think that's the repentance. That's the fruit of repentance. To get to the place of actually doing it — I had to change my mind. I had to repent before I took the step of repairing any broken relationships.

Because the initial act of repentance is in the context of our relationship with God. For far too many of us and for far too long,

repentance has been about one thing and one thing only — “stop that behavior.”

So, why do we do things that hurt other people? Intentionally or unintentionally. Why do we rebel against our loving Father and engage in behavior that we know He doesn't condone?

Well, because our belief about that ungodly behavior is false. Isn't that the truth of the matter? We engage in destructive behaviors because our beliefs about those behaviors are

false. We think those behaviors are going to give us something they can't actually give us.

The behavior doesn't stem from something you're doing. It stems from something you're believing.

- Anger as common example**

So, if we equate repentance with behavior, we're not going to experience lasting change, because to repent is to change your mind.

How many of us have sinned, gone to God and said — “I have sinned. I’m sorry. I’ll try to do better.” That mindset shows us we think it’s only about the behavior.

And when you say, “I’ll try to do better,” right there you’ve admitted the gospel is about your behavior, that God’s acceptance of you is based on stopping that particular behavior (whatever it happens to be). Some of us have been trapped in this place where we think God is always concerned about our behavior. He’s concerned about your mind, your point

of view, how you see things. Why? Because that will dictate your behavior.

You see, repentance is not behavioral. Repentance is relational. That's why:

2. Repentance is not simply a change of behavior.

This entire chapter plays into our big idea — that repentance is relational.

1. They're returning because they changed their minds.
2. We're already right with God because of Christ. He wants our thinking to be right.
3. It's painful to have your mind changed.
4. "You think you're going to please me through these outward rituals? I want you to know Me."
5. Whoredom — that's about relationship. They have left their relationship with God. Why? They believed other gods would do what they needed to be done. Our behavior is about what we believe.

Hosea 6

Thomas Watson's 6 Categories of Repentance:

1. Seeing your sin
2. Sorrow for your sin (self-righteous, smug, superstitious, lazy easy believers have no sorrow for sin)
3. Confessing your specific sin (eager to clear God of any wrongdoing)
4. Being ashamed of your sin

Jeremiah 6:15

15 Were they ashamed when they committed abomination?

**No, they were not at all ashamed;
they did not know how to blush.**

**Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;
at the time that I punish them, they shall
be overthrown,”
says the Lord.**

5. Hating your sin

6. Turning from your sin

Jeremiah 31:18-19

**¹⁸ I have heard Ephraim grieving,
'You have disciplined me, and I was
disciplined,**

like an untrained calf;

**bring me back that I may be restored,
for you are the Lord my God.**

**¹⁹ For after I had turned away, I relented,
and after I was instructed, I struck my
thigh;**

**I was ashamed, and I was confounded,
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'**

Now, with all we have to feel bad about, let me emphasize this final point:

3. Repentance is not groveling.

Nehemiah 8:9

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the

people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

Romans 1:5

⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

In the same way that fruit is not repentance, neither is obedience the same as faith. Obedience is the product of faith. So, if you're not connected to Christ through faith you can't even have obedience. Second, if you do not have a daily relationship with Christ through faith you cannot have obedience.