

Part Two: **Sin and Repentance**

We have to take sin seriously. If we don't, we can fall into the habit of mentally categorizing sins into those which are unacceptable and those sins that are tolerated.

Song of Solomon 2:15

It is the compromise on the little things that lead to our downfall.

True Biblical, Godly repentance is a five-fold process.

1. Conviction

Godly repentance starts with conviction.

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit would come to convict us of sin.

John 16:7-8 (nkjv) *He (Holy Spirit) will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*

2. Confession

1 John 1:9 (niv) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

'Confess' Greek: **"homologia"** - Confessing by acknowledging the truth.

In this passage the general meaning of confession is declaring, talking about, owning it. *"You're right, God, I'm wrong."*

Confession is talking to God and agreeing with God about our sin.

Confession is talking to others about our sin.

1 John 1:9 *"if we confess our sin..."* We have to talk about our sin. Bring it out in the open.

3. Repentance

Repentance is not just managing, or minimizing sin.

Think of sin this way... God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sin. And if it's important enough for Jesus to die for, we need to put our sin to death too.

If Jesus died for that sin, then that sin must die. Can't just wound it, we have to kill it. Repentance is the putting to death of sin, not just feeling bad.

4. Restitution

This is trying to make our wrongdoing right.

If we've stolen, we should pay it back. If we've lied about someone and damaged their reputation, we need to go to those people we've lied to and say, *"That wasn't true. I sinned and I lied."*

Real repentance is: *"I need to try and make this right in as much as by God's grace I'm able, 'cause if I was part of your wounding, I need to be part of your healing, if you will let me."*

5. Reconciliation

'Reconciliation' means, *"to return to favour with, to receive one into favour. To put someone back into friendship with God."*

Jesus endured separation from God so we might happily draw near to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (nlt) *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

Jesus' death created the way for us to be reconciled back to God.

Jesus forgives us of our sin by removing its blemish in response to true Godly repentance, so reconciliation may happen.

Romans 5:8-11

When we sin, we go to the person we've sinned against and we repent.

We also must forgive ourselves! Think about that in this context;

If Jesus forgives us, but we cannot, this is like placing ourselves above Jesus, and to withhold from ourselves forgiveness that He guarantees through His death and resurrection.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (nlt) *Throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness - righteous, holy, and true.*