

Is Jesus Number 1?

We have many relationships in this life: marriage, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. But, our relationship to Jesus must come first. Jesus said that he wants us to put him first in our life (Luke 14:26, 33). Why must Jesus come first? Here are a few reasons.

Jesus must come first because there is no other place for him. He is preeminent over all (Colossians 1:18) and he is head over all things (Ephesians 2:20-23). Also, nobody has done for us what Jesus has done. He put us first. He loved us and he died for us (John 15:3; Romans 5:6-8). Family and friends have done important things for us, but not like Jesus!

His moral character is another reason to put him first. He was perfect and sinless (Hebrews 4:15). He promised to meet all of our earthly needs (Matthew 6:33). We don't have to worry about life! He gives us freedom from sin (John 8:32-34) and he gives us the greatest opportunity in life to serve God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Jesus must come first because he is the only one who can save us from being destroyed in Hell. He can save us from God's wrath to come (Romans 5:9). Jesus is also number one because of who he is. He is God the Son (John 1:1-3, 14). There is no teaching like his and no other teacher is like him (Matthew 7:28-29).

Friend, make Jesus your number one relationship in life. - *Chris Reeves*

Up-Coming Events

- We are studying Romans in March. We have great Bible classes. Come check them out!
- **Note:** You can always get back issues of The Warfield Bulletin by going to: TheGoodTeacher.com

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Website
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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Call to Repentance

Sermons on repentance are not popular with some people today. When churches today place too much emphasis on church growth they may be overlooking the sin among the members (or visitors) in order to have a larger membership. Others have a wrong concept of repentance. They believe that repentance is not turning from sin, but simply having a penitent (sorrowful) attitude only.

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

God calls (commands) sinners in the world to repent. Paul preached that God “*commands all men everywhere to repent*” (Acts 17:30). God also calls (commands) sinners in the church to repent. Peter said to Simon, a new Christian, “*repent therefore of this thy wickedness*” (Acts 8:22). John also wrote to the churches of Asia and told them to repent of their sins (Revelation 2-3).

The command to repent is clear, but what is involved in repentance is often misunderstood by many today. Many have their own idea of repentance. Many have not searched the Bible to see what repentance involves. Others know, but ignore it.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

“Repent” and “repentance” in the New Testament are translated from the Greek verb *metanoeo*, and the Greek noun *metanoia*, meaning “a change of mind”. A sinner repents when he or she has a

change of mind that leads to stopping the sin that is being committed.

Contrary to popular opinion repentance is not just regret. Some people have remorse or regret over what they have done wrong, but they do not repent. Repentance is not just sorrow. Some people have a “sorrow of the world” (2 Corinthians 7:10), but do not repent. This is the “sorry I got caught” feeling.

Repentance is not prayer. Some people pray, but continue living in sin (Proverbs 28:9). Repentance is not confessing sin. Confessing sin is important (Psalm 32:1-5), but some people confess their sins and keep on sinning. They do not forsake their sins (Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7).

Repentance is not assembling with Christians. Some people think that they can keep sinning as long as they “go to church” somewhere (1 Peter 3:8-12). Repentance is not some generic “if” statement. Some people think that a catch-all “if” statement will make them right. Something like: “If I have done such and such, I’m sorry...” (Psalm 51:1-3).

BIBLE REPENTANCE

The fact is, there is no forgiveness with God where there is no repentance with man (Luke 17:3-4)! So, what is repentance according to the Bible? Take the time to read and study the following Bible verses.

Repentance contains the element of **REGRET**. The sinner is truly sorry for his sin (Matthew 11:20,21; 2 Corinthians 7:8-10). Re-

pentance contains the element of **RESOLVE**. The sinner is determined to stop the sin he is committing (Matthew 21:29; Lk.15:7,10,18-20a). Repentance contains the element of **REFORMATION**. The sinner actually stops the sin and changes his life (Matthew 3:8; 12:41; see Jonah 3:1-10; 21:29,32; Luke 3:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Acts 3:19; 19:19; 26:20; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Hebrews 6:1; Revelation 2:5,21-22; 3:2-3; 9:20-21; 16:8-11). Repentance contains the element of **RESTORATION**. The sinner, when possible, restores what he wrongfully took from someone else (Matthew 27:3-5; Luke 19:8).

True repentance is a change of mind, produced by a godly sorrow, that results in a change of life. Anything other than this is not Bible repentance! Repentance must contain three elements: the intellectual element (a change of mind), the emotional element (a change of feeling), and the volitional element (a change of conduct). All three elements must be present before true repentance can take place.

Repentance has been called the Bible's hardest commandment. Some try to change the demands of repentance so that the sinner doesn't have to get out of his sin. However, glorious blessings await the sinner in the world (Acts 2:38) and the sinner in the church (Acts 8:22) who will truly repent. You will never regret having repented of sin. God is longsuffering and waiting for you to repent (2 Peter 3:9). Do it today! - Chris Reeves