



Remorse vs. Repentance

By Jeff Bedwell on January 6, 2021

READING: Luke 3

John the Baptist had a unique role in God's Kingdom - calling people to repentance and pointing them beyond himself to the One who was coming, the Lord Jesus Christ. Fulfilling his calling would eventually lead to John's arrest and execution.

There is a difference between remorse and genuine repentance. They are different in their **reasons**. Remorse is primarily sorrowful for the consequences of our sins. Repentance is primarily sorrowful for sinning against the love and holiness of God.

They are different in their **direction**. Remorse drives us away from God, leaving us feeling guilty and unchanged. Genuine repentance drives us toward God and the forgiveness and cleansing found only in Jesus Christ.

They are different in their **outcomes** (see 2 Corinthians 7:10). Remorse leads to spiritual death or divine judgment. Repentance leads to "salvation without regret" and restoration of the joy of our relationship and walk with God. Genuine repentance shows forth in walking in a new and different way, "bearing fruit" in keeping with repentance.

Today, may God help us understand that the call to repentance is an invitation to turn from that which "steals, kills and destroys" (see John 10:10) and to return to the one who is truly life.

PRAYER: "Father, when the Holy Spirit graciously convicts me of sin, help me understand it as an act of Your love and grace and respond in genuine repentance, not settling for worldly sorrow or remorse."

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 4

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