

“TRAIL OF REPENTANCE”

Presented by

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The local church is very much like an average family, only much larger. There are many very similar characteristics seen in both groups.

For instance, in each family (both church and personal) there is...

- Love and caring practiced
- House rules and organizational structure
- Common goals and desires
- Special times of celebration
- Times of sorrow and grief that affect the entire family

And believe it or not, in the church family and personal family, there are also times of discipline to correct sinful patterns. These times of discipline are accompanied by the “consequences of the sin” and also the process of restoration. Even though this process can be very painful, when God’s Word is obeyed it is always right and profitable.

Note the definite trail of repentance.

REPENTANCE – RIGHT BUT NOT EASY

2 Corinthians 7:8

- The trail is repentance is always accompanied by sorrow and pain.
- The confession of I John 1:9 is part of the process of repentance.
- However, the confession and forgiveness of I John 1:9 is the process used for an occasional sin that breaks fellowship with God.
- The “trail of repentance” discussed in 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 normally involves a lifestyle sin.
- This lifestyle of sin has gone on for some time and has numerous consequences.
- Those administering the discipline also have pain and grieve. (vs. 8)
- Confronting sin is never easy, but it is necessary because of the devastating nature of sin.
- We must be continually in fear of the consequences of sin and the harmful effects those consequences have in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE TRAIL OF REPENTANCE

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

- Repentance = A change of mind which causes a change of actions or to think so differently that actions are changed.
- True repentance is always preceded by godly sorrow.
- This godly sorrow always...
 - Is in keeping with God's will.
 - Is without regret
 - Is because of salvation
 - Is not produced by the flesh (that kind is deadly)

SEVEN MARKS OF TRUE REPENTANCE

1. **EARNESTNESS** = An eagerness to make things right. An urgency to restore and repay.
2. **VINDICATION OF YOURSELF** = Literally means "a reasonable defense." It is a strong desire to clear a person's reputation. By making sure that all who know of the sin now know of the godly repentance. This also includes a strategy to prove oneself trustworthy.
3. **INDIGNATION** = To be outraged over the sin and its damage to others. To hate the sin that caused such grief.

4. FEAR = A reverential respect of God. Also, a great “fear of displeasing God.
5. LONGING = A strong desire to see godly relationships restored.
6. ZEAL = A passion to jealously guard righteousness and hate sin that destroys it.
7. AVENGING OF WRONG = A strong desire to see justice done and to make restitution for the sin done. To accept the consequences of sin and not try to avoid them.

Note – When these marks of repentance are seen, the sinning) now repentant) believer is seen as “pure” or innocent again.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- As believers, we must understand the damage caused by the results of each sin.
- Many never have a “pure” reputation in the body of Christ because they have not truly repented of their sin.