

Chapter 3: Repentance

Steps to Christ

Part 1: p. 23-28

God loves us very much and wants to be with us forever. The problem is that sin took humanity captive and deceived us into running from God and loving sin. Repentance sets us free from sin and allows God to replace our evil hearts with a loving one. It is the result of God's love shining into our lives, convicting us of sin, and leading us to surrender to Him and live a new life. Repentance is a miracle from God in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways you have experienced God seeking to draw you closer to Him?
a. Sermons b. Parents c. Bible d. Answered Prayer e. Other?
2. What is the difference between only saying "I'm sorry" and repentance?
3. What are some things in your life that Jesus may be wanting you to repent from?
a. Something you like to do b. Something that happened today c. Something else?

Activity

Pour a glass of water and set it aside. Next, pour yourself a glass of juice (or other drink) and set it aside next to the water. Focusing on the glass of water, close your eyes and command it to become the drink next to it. Why were you unable to transform it? Discuss how this illustrates how we cannot change our hearts without God. Finally, take sips of both drinks and discuss their different tastes. Discuss how much better our lives "taste" when they are filled with the love of God.

Part 2: p. 29-35

God longs to give us amazing and abundant lives. He doesn't need us to make ourselves better to come to Him and welcomes us just as we are. If you sense God speaking to your heart today, don't put off giving your life to Him as it can make it easier to resist Him in the future. All that He wants is to make you happy by gifting you freedom from sin.

Discussion Questions

1. T/F: Do we need to make ourselves holy to be able to come to Jesus? Why?
2. How does holding on to sin affect us?
a. Hardens our hearts? b. Separates us from God? c. Worsens our lives? d. Other?
3. What happens after a person receives the gift of repentance?

Activity

Find a cookie or dessert treat. One person must hold the treat and try to give it to another person who will refuse it at all costs. Discuss how this activity can relate to God's gift of repentance.

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Chapter 3: Notable Quotes Activity

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of Steps to Christ. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most:

a. Reassuring b. Amazing c. Exciting d. Thought-provoking?

Are there others that caught your eye?

“Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.” (p. 23)

“A repentance such as this, is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ, who ascended up on high and has given gifts unto men.” (p. 25)

“Just here is a point on which many may err, and hence they fail of receiving the help that Christ desires to give them. They think that they cannot come to Christ unless they first repent, and that repentance prepares for the forgiveness of their sins . . . We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ.” (p. SC 26)

“Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts.” (p. 26)

“Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul.” (p. 26)

“The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist he will be drawn to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God’s dear Son.” (p. 27)

“Calvary stands as a memorial of the amazing sacrifice required to atone for the transgression of the divine law. Let us not regard sin as a trivial thing.” (p. 33)

“Christ is ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force the will; and if by persistent transgression the will itself is wholly bent on evil, and we do not desire to be set free, if we will not accept His grace, what more can He do?” (p. 34)

“As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up to despair. It was sinners that Christ came to save. We have not to reconcile God to us, but—O wondrous love!—God in Christ is ‘reconciling the world unto Himself.’” (p. 35)