

Well, we can say that repentance is a recognition that moral wrong-doing is sin, and an admission that sin is a wicked offense against a good God. Repentance also includes a recognition of the senselessness of sin and its results, and an appreciation of the depths of degradation to which sin can plunge a human being.

We can also say that repentance includes a deep sense of shame and humiliation and grief and sorrow for sinful attitudes and actions against a holy and loving God.

And we can say that repentance is a turning from stubbornness, a change of attitude from willful ignorance to recognition of the true God, a forsaking of sinful thoughts and actions, a change of one's basic life-direction, a change of will, and a turning to the Lord with one's entire inner being (one's heart). Repentance is granted to Israel, to the Gentiles, and to some who oppose the truth of God. It cannot be coerced or produced merely by severe threats or terrible punishments.

To summarize:

*Overhead*

Repentance is a decisive change brought about by the Holy Spirit in the life of a sinner by which he/she realizes the wickedness and odiousness of his/her sin as an offense against the goodness and justice of God; experiences deep sorrow over having thereby offended and grieved God; and turns away from sin to seek God's forgiveness, cleansing, and deliverance from it.

From this summary, it can be seen that repentance is a change of basic direction that includes the intellect, the emotions, and the will.

*Overhead*

If the intellectual element remains alone, the realization of sin as an offense against God may merely express itself in fear of punishment.

If the emotional element does not produce any change in one's life, it is remorse, which is sorrow for the consequences of sin rather than sorrow for the sin itself. This is why Judas Iscariot is not an example of true repentance. He realized that he had done wrong and knew that the consequences of his wrongdoing were very serious; he felt such deep remorse and regret at his act of wrongdoing that he felt he could not continue to live with his emotional pain; and he confessed his wrongdoing and returned the price of his betrayal to those with whom he had conspired. Yet he did not repent of his sin: did not recognize his act as an