

SOME CONTRASTS BETWEEN FALSE REPENTANCE AND TRUE REPENTANCE

FALSE REPENTANCE

1. Recognition of wrongdoing
2. Experience of shame and remorse for wrongdoing
3. Regret for the consequences of wrongdoing in one's own life, or in the lives of others
4. Resolution and determination not to do the wrong again, but to do better, to the best of one's ability
5. A temporary and outward change of behavior, rather than a definitive change of heart
6. Is unaccompanied by faith in God's mercies in Christ, and does not lead to confession and forgiveness of sin

TRUE REPENTANCE

1. Recognition of wrongdoing as sin against God
2. Experience of sorrow and grief at having offended the Father, displeased the Son, and grieved the Spirit
3. Hatred of sin, and deep sorrow for its effects in one's own life and the lives of others
4. Intention to turn from and forsake sin, and to turn to and do God's righteous will, by His grace
5. A definitive change of heart, brought about by the Spirit of God and the Word of God, which change expresses itself in a change of behavior
6. Is always accompanied by faith in God's mercies in Christ, and leads to confession and forgiveness of sin, together with restitution for sin