

“The Key to Your Reversal”

Ezekiel 18:24-32

Introduction

The key to reversing the consequences of sin is a lifestyle of repentance. Repentance is necessary because sin breaks fellowship with God; it is a central and necessary component for limiting and reversing the consequences of sin. It is God’s designated way to address the consequence of sin, which is death (Romans 6:23). However, death as a result of sin is not just physical in nature yet it represents any illegitimate separation from abundant living in Christ. Such a death can be emotional, financial, spiritual or physical. When we are separated from fellowship with God, this is a form of death in our lives and a direct consequence of our sin.

Repentance first involves recognition of sin; if we don’t recognize sin we can’t deal with it. Then repentance involves remorse over our sins. Sin separates us from God and that fact should grieve us. The recognition of sin should sadden us because it brings us into the realization that we have offended the God we love. Repentance also involves a visible decision to address our sins. In other words, it starts with an inner attitude about our wrong doings that eventually works itself outward. Repentance is not just a feeling but it also involves action, which begins with you doing something to address the problem.

When we repent, we receive forgiveness and can be brought back into fellowship with God (1 John 1:9) Our repentance creates space for God to intervene in our circumstances as He chooses. The reversal of our consequences begins with repentance which turns our direction from death to life.

Getting Started

1. What are you most looking forward to in the New Year?
2. What resonated with you most from this week’s sermon?

Let’s Get Personal

1. It is not possible to address the consequences of sin without reengaging fellowship with God. Many people want a change of consequence without taking action to restore the fellowship with God that has been broken by unconfessed sin. Are you walking in fellowship with God? How do you know?
2. Has there ever been a time in your life when, because of unconfessed sin, you were out of fellowship with God? How did that affect you? What consequences did you experience or are you still experiencing today?
3. More than an inward resolve to turn from sin, we demonstrate repentance through practical actions that show a change of direction. A change of direction is proof of taking sin seriously. It shows that we desire to restore fellowship with God. Share an example of a time when repentance resulted in practical fruit of a changed behavior in your life.

Take the Next Step

1. Does the knowledge of your sin grieve you? How do you know? What decisions are you willing to make today as evidence that you seek to change direction and restore fellowship between you and the Lord? Remember, repentance is not just saying I’m sorry; it involves a decision to turn.
2. When we develop repentance as a lifestyle, we enjoy the benefit of continuous fellowship with God. What does a lifestyle of repentance look like? How can you practically implement a repentant lifestyle into your everyday life?
3. Is there currently unconfessed sin in your life? Allow time in your small group meeting for individual prayer with a focus on repentance. Use this time to seek forgiveness and to begin the process of restoration with God. As you pray, don’t be afraid to ask God for help with the consequences of your sin or clarity on how to flourish in Him despite your consequences.
4. Want to read more about repentance and the consequence of sin? 2 Corinthians 7:10-11; Zechariah 1:3-4; Hosea 14:1; Matthew 12:41; Revelation 9:20-21; 1 John 1: 7:9; Acts 3:19-21; Isaiah 30:15.

Renew Your Mind

“When a wicked man turns away from his wickedness...he will save his life.” Ezekiel 18:27
