

What We Teach – A Journey thru the KBC Doctrinal Statement “Repentance” – January 16, 2022

Regeneration and Conversion

We teach that as a result of regeneration, the sinner converts to Christ. This act of conversion always includes both repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior as commanded by the gospel (Matthew 3:2, 4:17; Mark 1:15; 6:12; Luke 5:32; 13:1-5; John 3:36; Acts 2:37-39; 3:19; 17:30-31; 20:21; Romans 1:5; 16:26; 1 John 3:23).

Regeneration →	Conversion (Faith & Repentance)
Passive Reception of New Life	Active Response to New Life
Implanting of New Life	First Fruit of New Life
Holy Spirit’s Work Internally	Our Response Externally
Enlightened by the Gospel of Christ	Committed to the Gospel of Christ
Invisible (Unconscious of the Change)	Visible (Conscious of the Change)

The Nature of Conversion

Just as regeneration and conversion go together (you cannot have one without the other, specifically, regeneration precedes and results in conversion), so also you cannot separate faith and repentance in the work of conversion. True saving faith is always a *repenting* faith and true repentance is always a *believing* repentance. Conversion always involves a turning away from sin (repentance) and a turning to Christ (faith). You cannot have one without the other.

The Nature of Repentance

We teach that the repentance leading to life includes a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of sin, and a sincere commitment to forsake sin and walk in obedience to Christ (Matthew 11:28-30; Acts 26:18-20; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, 12:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Hebrews 6:1).

Repentance is turning from idols we serve to the true God (1 Thessalonian 1:9)

“What do we mean by idols? How does that tie into sin? Sin is not just a transgression of a law of God. It involves a turning from God in unbelief and turning to something else as a ‘god’. When I sin I am saying to God, ‘I do not trust you. I do not believe your way is good and best. I do not believe you are wise.’ In place of the true God I worship pleasure, a lover, a lie, my money, a career advancement, my reputation etc. We cannot worship God and sin. We cannot sin without worshipping idols. Deep in the heart of man there is a powerful pull of idolatry. We want to worship this other god because of the pleasure it brings us. That love for sin and our false lover can actually keep us from repentance.”

~ Mark Lauterbach - *The Transforming Community*

Distinguishing True and False Repentance

FALSE REPENTANCE

SELF-FOCUSED – FULL OF PRIDE

EXAMPLE: JUDAS – Matt. 27:3-5

1) Sorrow for Sin (For wrong reasons):

“Felt remorse” (vs. 3); maybe cry? Fear of consequences (get caught); Fear of shame; Self-pity (Feel sorry for yourself); Frustration with sin; Hurt reputation.

PRIDE REMAINS

2) Shallow Confession (Misuse of 1 John 1:9)

“I have sinned” (vs. 4). Acknowledges wrongdoing, but too vague, general. Still hiding sin and making excuses. Fails to see seriousness and depth of sin’s problem.

3) Resolve to Amend Ways (I can do it!)

“Returned silver” (vs. 3).
Self-improvement. Covers shame, but leaves guilt untouched. Makes you feel better about yourself.

RESULTS:

4) Burden Remains

“Hanged himself” (vs. 5). Guilt and shame or indifference remains. No spiritual renewal or sense of divine pardon. Often go back to same sin quickly.

5) Half-hearted Measures

“Threw silver” (vs. 5). Pluck only leaves while root remains. John Owen says, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

TRUE REPENTANCE

GOD-FOCUSED – FULL OF HUMILITY

EXAMPLE: DAVID – Psalm 51

1) Sorrow for Sin (For right reasons):

“Against You I sinned” (vs. 4); “broken, contrite” (vs. 17). Breaks fellowship with God, grieves His heart & yours. Longs for restoration and light of His love.

PRIDE IS BROKEN WITH HUMILITY

2) Sincere Confession (True use of 1 John 1:9)

“My sin is ever before me” (vs. 3); “You are justified, blameless” (vs. 4); “You desire truth” (vs. 5); “Hide your face from my sins” (vs. 9). Sees sin as God does, no excuses, accepts full responsibility.

3) Pleads for Help (Only God can rescue me)

“Be gracious to me” (vs. 1); “wash/ cleanse me” (vs. 2); “Purify” (vs. 7); “Restore” (vs. 12); “Deliver” (vs. 14). Sees helplessness, desperation, need for God’s grace.

RESULTS:

4) Burden Removed

“Purify” (vs. 7); “Joy, gladness, Holy Spirit” (vss. 8, 11-12); “Clean heart” (vs. 10).
No shame, experience joy, renewed delight in and fellowship with God.

5) Whole-hearted Fruit

“Willing spirit” (vs. 12); “teach transgressors” (vs. 13); “Open lips, declare Your praise” (vs. 15). Desire for godly living, renewed spiritual life, repair what was ruined by sin.