

Blaise Pascal

(1623-1662)

“There are only two kinds of men: the righteous, who believe themselves sinners; the rest, sinners who believe themselves righteous.”

Plato

“Goodness requires insight, not simply rule -following.”

Thomas Carlyle

(historian, philosopher)

“Of all acts of man repentance is the most divine.
The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.”

What changes

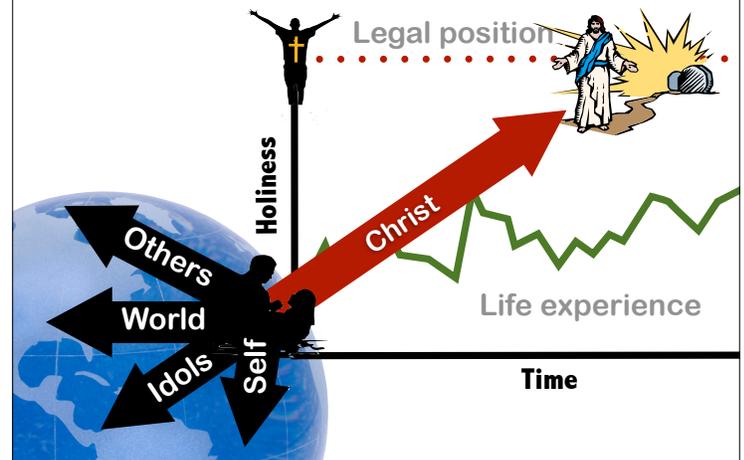
when a person becomes a Christian?

- ✓ **Some things may change immediately.**
- ✓ Some things may not change at all.
- ✓ Some things may change over time.

1. Our position in Christ



2. Our direction in life



#1

Repentance

is the ultimate acknowledgment that life is not all about me.

“It’s not about me.”

It is not wise to compete with God for the right to control the universe.

There is a standard of truth and morality that is prescriptive not descriptive.

We are capable of and prone to digression from the path of our calling as humans who bear the image of God.

#2 True Repentance is from the inside out.

Repent

μετανοέω
metanoëo

meta - "after"
noëo - "to perceive"

"to renew or change the mind"

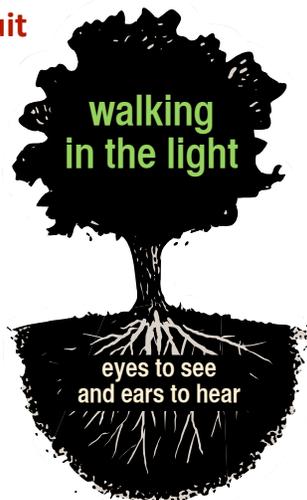
Moral reform is the fruit
of a renewed mind.

Matthew 6:22

"The eye is the lamp of
the body; so then if your
eye is clear, your whole
body will be full of light."

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed
to this world but be
transformed by the
renewing of your mind"



#3

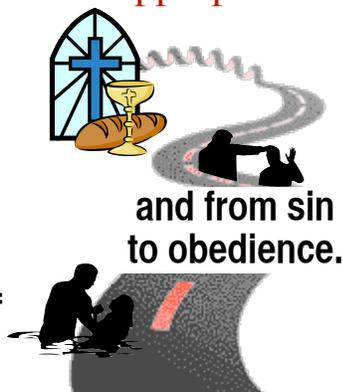
True Repentance is a change in the direction and trajectory of life.

Acts 26:20

"that they should repent and turn to
God, performing deeds appropriate to
repentance."

Repentance is
turning

from self
to God



True Repentance starts with Insight.

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the sons



- ✓ Autonomy (leaving home)
- ✓ Worldliness (living it up)
- ✓ Pain (feeling the heat)
- ✓ **Insight** (seeing the light)
- ✓ Commitment (charting a path)
- ✓ **Action** (returning home)
- ✓ Reunion (experiencing grace)

Matthew 13:3-23
The Parable of the soils

Four Signs of True REPENTANCE

- ✓ Alongside the road (not rooted) → There is an **appetite** for the Word of God.
- ✓ On the rocky places (not hardy) → There is a **connectedness** with other believers.
- ✓ Among the thorns (not a priority) → There is a **resistance** to the temptation to turn back.
- ✓ On the good soil (produces fruit) → There is a **display** of faith, hope, and love in Christ.

#4

REPENTANCE

is to be understood in two contexts.

1. Strategic REPENTANCE



(the sin of unbelief)
Worldly hopes



Kingdom hopes

Conversion to faith in Christ

Acts 26:18

“to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me”

Conversion to Christ through faith gives us our position in Christ.

Acts 2:38

“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Conversion is symbolized in water baptism which is our initiation into the faith.

2 Corinthians 12:21

“I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.”

Strategic REPENTANCE is not without need for repeated tactical repentance.



2. Tactical repentance



(Sinful ways)
Worldly attachments, attitudes, and actions



Kingdom living

Communion with God and others

2 Corinthians 7:9

“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.”

Communion with God and others through regular repentance prevents loss of temporal blessing.

What must I repent of to become a Christian?

	Change mind about Christ and self	Be willing to turn from all known sins at conversion	Be willing to keep on turning from all known sins	Turn from all known sins	Keep on turning from all known sins
Holiness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arminian	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Calvinistic	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lutheran	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Radical grace	Yes	No	No	No	No

REPENT

exchanging hope in self and the world for the Cross of Christ



- ★ The sin of unbelief
- ★ Conversion

repent

letting go of worldly attachments, attitudes, & actions for Kingdom living



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Communion

Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

REPENT

- ✓ Apostasy is the reversal of strategic REPENTANCE.
- ✓ Strategic REPENTANCE need not be repeated.

repent

- ✓ Backsliding is the reversal of tactical repentance.
- ✓ Tactical repentance is repeatedly needed.

1 Corinthians 1:2

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling,”

The Corinthians had REPENTED

1 Corinthians 3:3

“For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

but were in need of repentance.

Water baptism is about conversion.

The Lord's Supper is about communion.



Both are about repentance.