

## Realization and Repentance

Sermon Topic: Realization and Repentance

Bible Verse: Luke 13:5

Sermon Theme: How can sinners deal with sin

Main idea: Paul tells us in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin are death. That means when we sin we are giving up a portion of our life. Jesus tells us in Luke 13:5 that there is a way to escape this death, and that is through our repentance.

What is sin? The Divine Principle defines sin as any thought or action in violation of Heavenly Law, which makes a base for Satan to have give and take with me. More simply put, sin is anything I use to replace the love of God. All desire for sin begins with the desire for Love (including the original sin), which is not wrong. The problem is that we try to fill our need for love with false love or self gratification.

There are two ways that we will deal with out sin, once we've come to the realization point. One is the right way, the other the wrong way.

First, the wrong way to deal with sin.

1. Realization of sin, but without the simultaneous realization of the extent of God's unchanging love for the sinner. This is the foundation of unresolved guilt and accusation.
2. Guilt. I am convicted by the realization of my sin. I am wrong, I have done bad. My conscience comes to life, exposing me in the most painful manner. It is like a throbbing toothache or a splinter in my finger.

3. Accusation. Once we've been convicted, we sentence ourselves to a course of accusation. Accusation makes us feel not only guilty, but also that we are essentially evil and have nothing to do with God. Accusation makes us feel that we can never change, and that is the final analysis we are not the son or daughter of God. No one can endure accusation for a long period of time, and so we must resolve it. We do so, erroneously, by...
4. Self justification and repression. We feel guilt and accusation because we have allowed Satan to use the truth against us outside the context of God's forgiving heart. Therefore, Satan leaves us no recourse but to disengage ourselves from the truth that is making us so guilty. (Guilt is the problem, not sin: that's what Satan whispers in our ear.) This leads us to a life of constantly justifying our sinful actions. We justify by replacement "truths" that tell me my sinful action is OK. Examples: oh, once won't hurt; or everybody is doing it now; or it's not really all that bad. To do this, we must also repress the part of our original mind that tells us the sin is wrong. That means we bury the sin inside ourselves and pretend it isn't there. But we then begin to live a lie and the suppressed sin works on us from within. The result is...
5. Sin multiplies rapidly. Once we have appeased our conscience and suppressed our sin, it becomes so easy to sin and sin again. We become a slave to Satan, we lose our freedom and as a result our ability to love and to feel love. Without the ability to love and feel love, we are DEAD! And as our feeling of lack of love increases with the extent of our sin, the desire for more sin (the replacement of love) will dramatically increase. We are in hell.

Now, the right way to deal with sin.

1. Realization of sin. But this time first we must realize the extent of God's forgiving love. If we don't understand the forgiving nature

of God, we have no place to take our sin. If we don't let God deal with our sin then Satan will deal with it, and will surely use it against us to destroy us.

2. Guilt. True guilt leads us to the strong desire to take responsibility for our sins. We have realized how our sins have hurt God, how our sins have hurt ourselves. Guilt gives us the strength to handle the course of restitution under God's love and forgiveness. Guilt brings us into submission, humbly before God. It brings us to the place where God can deal with us.
3. Repentance. Now we can repent with all our heart! Why does repentance free the sinner from Satan? Because it is one thing that Satan cannot do! He is the father of false pride. Satan hates to hear the voice of the repenter, just as God rejoices (Luke 15:7) over the repentance of even one sinner.
4. New determination. Take up the cross and follow. Go and sin no more. (Based on their understanding, some explanation of the need to lay an indemnity condition or Tang Gam.) Now we must go the reverse way of sin. Instead of replacing the love of God with self gratification, we become the second self of God and Jesus by sacrificing ourselves for the sake and benefit of others. We connect to the true source of love by becoming a temple of God and letting his spirit dwell in us. As we connect to the true source of love, then our desire for false love (sin) will decrease. We are free and have LIFE!

Summary: Let's become the second self of God and Christ, by taking up the cross and following him, finding his real love in the life of service to others. GO AD SIN NO MORE...