

The Repentant Life

We humans have mastered the art of cover up and denial. And when our sin is discovered we resort to blaming, minimizing and rationalizing. We have learned well the ways of our ancestors and contemporaries. Unfortunately, we have not learned well the ways of our Master. The Bible is clear as to the steps to true repentance and restoration.

Jim Cecy is a regular speaker at the European Leadership Forum. He serves as Senior Pastor-Teacher of Campus Bible Church in Fresno, California. Jim is also founder and President of JARON Ministries International, a training ministry for Christian leaders in the U.S. and abroad. He has a Masters of Divinity in Bible Exposition from Talbot Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from Western Seminary. He is a conference and seminar speaker for hundreds of churches, schools, seminars, conference centers, Christian groups and denominations in U.S. and abroad. In addition to other books and materials, he is the author of *The Purity War: A Biblical Guide to Living in an Immoral World*. Jim has been married for forty years and has nine grandchildren. Information about his materials, books and seminars is available at www.puritywar.com

Considering the A.C.T.S. of Repentance (cf. Chapter 41 of “The Purity War: A Biblical Guide to Living in an Immoral World.”)

STEP #1 ADMITTING MY SIN (Greek: metanoeo)

“...you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance (“a change of mind,” Greek: metanoia)...” (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

A. REFUSING TO HIDE MY SIN

“I was afraid . . . so I hid myself“ (Genesis 3:10).

“Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, because I feared the great multitude, and contempt of families terrified me, and kept silent and did not go out of doors? (Job 31:33-34).

“Acquit me (Hebrew: naqah) of hidden (Hebrew: cathar) faults (Psalm 19:12)

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

B. STOPPING BLAMING OTHERS FOR MY SIN

“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate” (Genesis 3:12) cf. James 1:14-16

C. GRIEVING OVER MY SIN cf. Eph. 4:30; James 4:9; 2 Cor. 12:21)

“How blessed is he . . . in whose spirit there is no deceit!” (Psalm 32:1-2)

“He who conceals his transgression will not prosper” (Proverbs 28:13)

STEP #2 CONFESSING MY SIN (Greek: homologeo)

“I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’; And You forgave the guilt of my sin (Psalm 32:5).

“For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin.” (Psalm 38:18)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

STEP #3 TURNING FROM MY SIN (Greek: epistrepho)

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again (Greek: epistrepho), strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)
cf. Psalm 139:23-24

STEP #4 STRENGTHENING OTHER SINNERS (Greek: sterizo)

True repentance moves from the mind to the mouth to the manner and, finally, to the ministry.

“Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.” (Psalm 51:13)

cf. Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 26:69-75; Romans 12:1