

Repentance: Drawing Near to God and Others

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- I. When there is serious relational sin what should we be looking for?
 - a. Where should the burden be?
 - b. The offense is against God—and he requires repentance
 - c. We can be uncomfortable with holding out God’s standard
 - i. "He said he was sorry, so I need to forgive”
 - ii. "He apologized so I cannot keep bringing it up”
 - iii. “She says that she has said all she can so I need to let it go”
 - iv. “I am not supposed to keep a record of wrongs, so I cannot bring it up again”
 - d. Caveats
 - i. This talk is not about forgiveness
 - ii. My goal is not to create an impossible bar but to help the offended recognize when God is at work
- II. God requires repentance
 - a. 1 John 1:9
 - b. Matthew 3:8.
 - c. Luke 13:3
 - d. We do not have to accept what the Lord does not
 - e. Examples
- III. Assessing an offender’s response
 - a. Why it is good to
 - b. Example
 - c. Christian offenders should pronounce the loudest judgment upon themselves.
 - i. Zacchaeus
 - ii. King of Neveah
 - iii. Paul
- IV. Why assessing for repentance is loving
 - a. For the love of the offender
 - i. The relationship with the Lord
 - ii. Their suffering

- iii. Limit the offender's ability to keep sinning
 - b. When harmed, you need relational wisdom.
 - i. Next steps?
 - ii. Reestablish trust
 - c. Extending mercy is costly
 - d. Protect your relationship with God.
- V. What to do when a gap exists between what God requires and what you as a hurting person are experiencing.
 - a. Bearing one another's burdens
 - b. Context Galatians 5
 - c. The messy middle
 - i. Reflect upon the apology or confession: Why does it not feel like it is enough?
Ask yourself, was something missing? Check if your perception is wrong. Consider: Did the apology blame-shift? Acknowledge your hurt? Did you feel listened to or rushed? Valued or dismissed? Was there sorrow for sin or blindness? Were they more concerned for themselves than you? Try to get real specific.
 - i. Examine your findings against Scripture and pray.
Which of these disparities would God take seriously? Does what you grieve, grieve God? Finding places in Scripture that share your complaint and concern.
 - ii. Craft and make an appeal to the one who offended you.
Describe what you are still wrestling with in a way that captures not just your hurt but also God's heart and your concern for them. Then reassess: Does this person match or outpace my level of distress about this? Are they growing in curiosity about my concerns?