

Introduction– *What are we trying to gauge in church discipline?*

I. **What is repentance unto life?** (Baptist Catechism Q/A 92)

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace,¹ whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,² and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,³ does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,⁴ with full purpose of and endeavor after new obedience.⁵

A. Four Features of Repentance

1. *Repentance is a change of mind about your sin itself and everything that sin touches (Jer 31:18, 19)*
2. *This change of mind manifests itself in a change of thought, word, and deed (Matt 3:8; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20)*
 - a. **Objection:** But isn't it true that we can't know a person's heart?
 - i. Not according to Jesus
 - aa. The premise of church discipline assumes it (Matt 18:15–2)
 - bb. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matt. 12:34; cf. Luke 6:45)
 - cc. You will know them by their fruits. (Matt. 7:16; cf. Luk 6:43, 44; Jam 2:18)
3. *Repentance is granted by God, not conjured up independently by the natural man (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25)*
4. *God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance (Rom 2:4)*

II. **Grounding and Aligning Our Motivations for Repentance** (2 Cor 7:10)

- A. *Two kinds of sorrow with differing consequences* (2 Cor 7:10)
1. **Worldly sorrow** is primarily, and sometimes exclusively, concerned with appearances, with what I may lose in this life, with how it affects my relationships and status
 2. **Godly sorrow** is primarily, though not exclusively, concerned with how heinous and offensive this sin is to God (Ps 51:4).

¹ Acts 11:28

² Acts 2:37, 38

³ Joel 2:12; Jer 3:22

⁴ Jer 31:18, 19; Ez. 36:31

⁵ 2 Cor. 7: 11; Is. 1:16, 17

- B. *Hierarchy of motivations for repentance*
1. *Vertical* motivations must ground and govern *horizontal* motivations for repentance.
 2. Examples of godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow
 - a. Godly sorrow–Joseph–(Gen. 39:9)
 - b. Worldly sorrow–Esau– (Heb 12:15–17)
- C. What are some examples of repentance fueled primarily by worldly sorrow?

III. **Some Fruit of False Repentance**

- A. What kind of fruit does false repentance produce?
1. *False repentance rearranges the furniture instead of burning it*
 2. *False repentance produces irritation and anger over the consequences of sin but not mourning over the offense of sin*
 3. *False repentance will take advantage of a culture of grace*
 4. *False repentance is cowardly*
 5. *False repentance produces a redefinition of “repentance” and “grace”*
 - A. **Repentance** turns from sin and through faith walks in new obedience
 - B. **Grace SAVES** and it **TRANSFORMS** (Titus 2:11–13)