

The Right Way to Repent - 1 Peter 3

Mel Dahlgren – South Bay Christian Church – September 19, 2020 (Video Conference)

Video of laying on of hands after Lucas's baptism five days ago.

To repent means to change. God commands all men everywhere to repent: See Acts 17:30

If you want to have a happy marriage, you also must repent. 50% of marriages end in divorce. Why? Because people do not want to change. It's my way or the highway. Let's see in first Peter 3:1- Wives, in the same way, be submissive. See 2:13- to rulers, 18- to bosses & 21-like Jesus suffered.

V. 1-7 A heart change. Verse 4- Instead it should be that of your inner heart. Secret to the right way to repent, notice V. 15.

See Philipians 2:5-11 The heart and mind of Jesus spelled out!

Then what is the wrong way to repent? See Jeremiah 17:9-The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and who can know it? The wrong way to repent is to do what you think is right. God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, for as high as the heavens are above the earth so are my ways higher than your ways" Isaiah 55:8-9.

Check this out: Matthew 7:21-23

... Depart from me you workers of iniquity. Whaaat??? What was wrong? See 1 Peter 3:15 again-In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Your heart and my heart are totally incapable of righteousness. You need and I need God's heart. your righteousness and my righteousness are nothing more than filthy rags in God's eyes. Isaiah 64:6. Rom. 3:20; even Jesus who was perfect in the flesh said this: "Why call me good? There is none good but one and that is God." Matthew 19:17 The only goodness Jesus had in the flesh was the goodness of his Father living in him. And the same is true with us. Jesus told everyone, "My Father who lives in me, he does the works." John 14:10

So how does this work?

Acts 2:38-39 "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off for all our Lord God will call."

The Holy Spirit is the heart of God and the very mind of Jesus Christ that we need to repent (change to) the right way. We cannot be like God. But he offers us the gift of the

Holy Spirit so that we could think like he thinks. And he does that through the laying on of hands. Notice Acts 8:12-17“ When they believed... They were baptized both men and women....Then Peter and John prayed for them and placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.”

V. 8-22 Only then are we capable of living a righteous life and repenting (changing to) the way of life God commands as described in the rest of this chapter.