

# Avoidances To Genuine Repentance

## 1 Samuel 15 Outline

### 1. Blame & Deflect vs. 1-16

When Saul was confronted by Samuel in regards to Saul disobeying God's Word by not fulfilling the command to ban the Amalekite nation, Saul immediately blamed his soldiers and deflected with an explanation that soon the command will be fulfilled through the soldiers sacrificing of the cattle & sheep as a worship to God.

Genuine repentance is not found in the strategy of deflecting guilt onto someone else.

### 2. Re-defining Obedience vs. 18-23

Instead of repentance, Saul attempted to save face by defending his actions with re-defining what it meant to obey the clear command that God had given him. Samuel does not accept Saul's re-definition, but rebukes Saul, and explains that there are consequences when you reject the word of the Lord; God has rejected Saul as king.

In the face of exposed disobedience, many have attempted to redefine what it actually means to obey. Even sacrifice is unacceptable if it becomes only a con for real submission to God's will.

Question:

- 1) It seems so ridiculous when we put it in words, but why do we sometimes think we have ideas that can improve on the instruction God has given us?
- 2) Clearly, Saul believed that ritual was the most important thing. It is best to please God with sacrifices. Samuel confronts these skewed values in verse 22-23 and makes it clear that obedience is better than sacrifice. What skewed values does a person need to watch out for that will influence a person to redefine what it actually means to obey?

### 3. Confession with Excuse vs. 24-35

Saul's confession before Samuel was not one of genuine repentance that he sinned, as he excused his action with having fear towards the people. As a result, his confession was fueled with the hope of being honored before the elders of his people. He displays no sorrow, does not change his way as Samuel reconciled the obedience through putting Agag to death, and Saul gives no indication that he will act differently in the future.

Genuine repentance is not the attempt to appease our accusers by acknowledging wrongdoing without actually taking responsibility for our actions.

This text illustrates how we only make our situation worse by failing to learn the true nature of worship and confession. Genuine Repentance is found in 1 Samuel 7:6, "We have sinned against the LORD". there was no evasion or argumentation. They did not attempt to defend themselves or to offer a contrived

confession that would in some way explain their innocence. They owned their wrong, repented of their sin, and desired to act differently in the future.

### **Questions:**

What partial obedience do you need to make right with God?

Are you trying to avoid full obedience to God, or attempting to appease Him through good works? If so, repent.

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## **What is Repentance?**

“In the New Testament, repentance is tied to the idea of going in a new direction. The Greek word translated as repentance is “metanoia,” which means “to change one’s mind.” Repentance is changing one’s mind by turning away from sin, which is the attitudes and behaviors that hurt people’s relationship with God.

Sometimes people talk about a “moment of repentance” — the specific moment when they realized their need for God’s forgiveness for the first time. Everyone who begins a relationship with God will begin by repenting, but repentance doesn’t end with that moment. Repentance is something that followers of Jesus must do frequently as they learn to become more like Him; it’s what is often called a “spiritual discipline.” Spiritual disciplines are practices in Scripture that promote spiritual growth by Christians, or believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

## **Repentance and the Prodigal Son**

### **Read Luke 15:11-32**

“Jesus’ famous parable about the prodigal son is a perfect picture of the three parts of repentance: conviction, change and confession. In Jesus’s story, a son goes to his father and asks for his inheritance early. When he receives it, he moves to a new city and begins wasting his money on a wild lifestyle. Then the country begins to experience famine and the son finds himself in a desperate situation. The son ends up working for a farmer, looking after his pigs. When the son gets hungry enough that he is jealous of the slop he is giving to the pigs, he realizes his father’s servants have food to spare while he has none. The son comes to his senses and decides to return home and throw himself on his father’s mercy.

### **The Importance of Conviction**

“Conviction” is a way of referring to the feeling of remorse for sin. Before he will repent, the son needs to feel conviction. He has to understand that he’s done something wrong and that he’s headed the wrong way. The trajectory of his life is going nowhere fast. He needs to make a change.

### **Making a Change**

But conviction alone isn’t repentance. God’s Holy Spirit convicts (John 16:8), but the son needs to decide how to respond to that conviction.

To repent, the son must decide to do something different. Feeling bad about his situation doesn't change it. He needs to go back to his father. There is nothing redemptive about simply feeling bad. This is why Paul, a leader in the early church who wrote much of the New Testament, says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10, NIV).

The truly repentant person turns conviction into action. Godly repentance leads to change. More often than not, there is a visible before-and-after difference in someone who has genuinely repented.

### **Contrition and Confession**

The son goes back to the father with a plan to tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants" (Luke 15:18-19, NIV).

In these words, there is sorrow over the suffering and shame he has caused. The son recognizes he doesn't deserve a second chance and that if he experiences one, it will be because the father shows him mercy. It's important to understand that, like sorrow, confession isn't repentance. It's part of the process. To truly make the changes required by repentance, you need to abandon excuses and blame. Instead, accept the truth about where you are. But remember, repentance is about going in a different direction.

The apostle John, one of Jesus' followers who became a leader of the church, explains it this way:

**This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7, NIV)**

Repentance is choosing to go in an entirely different direction, but it's also about choosing to go there in the light — telling the truth about the mistakes you have made.

### **Forgiveness (1 John 1:9)**

The son decided to go home because he hoped for mercy from his father. Repentance with the hope of turning back to God depends on God being willing to forgive. Thankfully, God is more than willing to forgive your sins because of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. The reaction of the father in Jesus' story illustrates the way God responds when you repent and return to Him:

**While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.**

**The father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:20, 22-23, NIV)"**

### **Repentance...**

Jesus' message of repentance was universal. He urged repentance everywhere He went, encouraging all people to make a critical change in their life. At one point, he told a crowd, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:55).

The truth is that everyone needs to repent. Jesus' message to "repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1:15) applies to all. To believe the good news that Jesus came to bear your sin and reconcile you to God, you have to accept the fact that, without Him, you're heading in the wrong direction.

The essential thing about repentance is that it's not a one-time-only affair. Beginning a relationship with God is a one-time event, but growing in that relationship involves continual repentance. If you want to stay aligned with the kingdom and grow in Christian maturity, you need to repent regularly. This requires the ability to recalibrate and realign your opinions and practices with God's Word and the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Repentance requires the acknowledgment that God's ways are higher than yours (Isaiah 55:8-9). There are things that seem right to you that do not line up with God's will (Proverbs 14:12). When you recognize and begin to live by this, you become more pliable in the Lord's hands.

When you recognize you are not obedient to Jesus, repentance is as easy as confessing your failure and making a plan to change. If your need for repentance has anything to do with someone you've wronged, then part of the repentance process must involve reconciling with them as well, if possible.

Repentance is necessary for everyone. Thankfully, it isn't difficult to understand. The kingdom of God is at hand, and people are going to need to make changes to be in step with it."

\* These quotes were from "Cru<sup>+</sup>" - [What Is Repentance, and How Do I Do It?](https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/what-is-repentance-and-how-do-i-do-it.html)  
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