

## Question 56

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Q56. What is it to repent?

### A56. To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God

*Scripture Base:* Ps 38:6, 51; Prov. 28:13;  
Luke 18:10-14; 2 Cor 7:8-12.

*Doctrine:* WCF 15 SC 87

### Supplementary Questions.

1. What does it mean to repent?

2. What are the three things that show that your repentance is genuine (true)?

Song: "I need thee precious Jesus" #497

### Teaching Notes

Review Q55. Who will be saved? - *Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ and lead holy lives.* Story : The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:10-14),

### Questions

1. Repentance is not just **changing your mind** about something. (i) Maybe you thought Jesus was only a man. You must change your mind and believe He is both God and man. (ii) Maybe you thought there were many ways to be saved. But you need to change your mind and believe Jesus is the only way. (iii) Maybe you thought God would save you if you were only good enough. But now you know you will never be good enough – you need Jesus' obedience. (iv) Maybe you thought you weren't a sinner. But now you realize you are.

**Repentance** includes all these things, but it means **more** than this – it also means to change the **direction** of your life. You came into this world on the broad road to destruction - You were guilty of Adam's sin and under the sentence of condemnation; you didn't love God and so weren't trusting in Him, and you weren't obeying God, but doing what you wanted to do. In repentance, you **stop** walking on the broad road that leads to death and begin walking on the **narrow road** that leads to life. **You trust in the Lord Jesus to save you and you begin obeying His commands.**

2. You must know God's standard (His Law) & be convinced that you've broken it (1 John 1:9). The Ten Commandments are God's holy standard. You must read, study, and compare what you do or don't do by those commandments. Also, you must admit that you have broken them (both by doing wrong things it forbids and by not doing the right things it requires).

You must be genuinely sorry for your sins (Ps. 38:6). Not just because you were caught & are in trouble. Not just because the wages of sin is eternal death. You must be sorry because you have offended God.

You must turn away from your sins, never to return to them (Prov. 28:13). If you plan to keep doing what's wrong, you haven't really repented. You must purpose to stop sinning for the rest of your life, or you haven't really turned from it. You must stop thinking about what's wrong, stop wanting to do it, and stop doing it. And you must begin doing what is right in every area (in your thoughts, in your desires, as well as in your actions). You won't be able to stop all your sins, but you must want to stop them all and try with God's help to stop them.

Gospel: The above deals with repentance. Now tell them about faith: how important it is that they not only stop doing the wrong things, but trust in Jesus – in His perfect work and atoning death – to save them. Tell them also that if they have really trusted in Jesus, they will be turning from their sins – you can't have one without the other. If we turn to Christ, we must turn from sin. If we turn from sin, we must turn to Christ.

Extras: Worksheet. Cut out the 'good fruit' & stick on to the apples (Gal 5:19-26)

Song: "I need thee precious Jesus" #497