

Why must I repent?

Have I hurt someone?

I know I have really messed up. I have damaged a relationship, said things, broken a trust, and the list goes on. I can't hit a "delete" button this time or undo the wrong. I have messed up and others are hurting as a result.

Have broken my marriage vows?

My actions were so very wrong and so very damaging. I actually destroyed my marriage! I lied when I took those vows and I have let down my spouse, my family, my God, and myself.

Have I hurt my reputation and myself

Maybe most people don't even know about it but **I** know and **God** knows and I am so ashamed of myself. This is not the "real me".

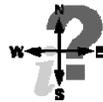
Who do I need to repent to?

God

I know He knows what I have done. Nothing is hidden from Him. He does not want His children to act this way any more than I would want my children to. This is a wedge I drove between us and it hurts Him and me. David felt this same way when he wrote Psalm 51.

My spouse, my family, anyone I have hurt

I cannot go on with the guilt of this problem between us. Even if there were other circumstances involved, I still am responsible for my own actions and I still did it and I damaged our relationship deeply. I want and need those relationships.



Now what?

The burden of a life with guilt is way too much for me to bear.

Genuine sorrow for what I did

Sure, I'm sorry for getting caught but I am much more for doing what I did, regardless of getting caught (God knew anyway). I am really sorry for the pain and problems this caused. I know a lot of damage was done and I DID IT! I will accept responsibility for my actions. No one else made me go down this crazy road.

2 Corinthians 7:10(NIV) *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

Stop; Change; Determine to never go back there again

I know change is hard but not changing is **MUCH** worse. I **WILL** stop doing what caused this problem. I **WILL** stay away from those circumstances (or people) which allowed me to get into this situation. I

WILL promise to never go down this miserable road again. I **WILL** demonstrate to myself and friends and family I can change.

Sincerely request forgiveness from those I hurt

I know it will be hard but I must face them again and ask them to forgive me. I will be stuck here until I go to them. They may not accept it or even hear me out. They may not even believe me but I must try.

I cannot really "make it right" because I cannot undo the actions which caused the problem but I can ask them to give me a chance. Jesus taught His apostles to forgive over and over again in Matthew 18:21-22.

I will repent to them and to God!

Accept the consequences

It might be nice to hope this all goes away like a bad dream but it won't. It will hang around me and those I have hurt. I cannot "fix it" but once I repent and God forgives me I believe there may be some bright spot in the future. Paul stated in **Romans 8:28(NIV)** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

I don't know when or how but I do trust God to allow it to happen on His terms.

Forgive myself

Well, I have done my best to get rid of the burden of guilt from my actions. Since I have asked God to take it away from me, what right do I have to try to hold on to it any longer? I will choose to let it go and try my best to get on with rebuilding my life and restoring relationships.

What does real repentance look like?

Freedom from guilt

Acts 3:19(NIV) *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*

Peace, at last

Philippians 4:6-7(NIV) *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

We are here to help you!

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said in **John 8:32(NIV)** *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

This is presented with love by:

We simply seek to share the message of love, hope, forgiveness and peace found through Jesus Christ.

For more information please contact us:

Killen Church of Christ

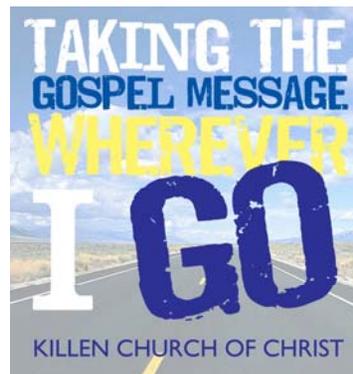
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Getting to repentance rbh 01/23/07

Getting To:

Repentance



I am soooooo very sorry!

