

# When We Turn From Sin

(Psalm 51:1-17)

- Introduction:
1. Repentance is probably the most difficult of all of God's commands, because it requires a change of action as well as a change of heart.
  2. So difficult is it, that many have attempted to substitute genuine repentance with a poor, but easy imitation.
  3. Let's turn to an example of genuine repentance and see what we can learn about it.

## I. We Must Be Honest With Ourselves

- A. (Psalm 51:1-4).
- B. We often use euphemisms to salve our conscience and to make ourselves believe we haven't been all that bad.
- C. Instead of calling our unrighteousness "sin," we call them "mistakes," "weaknesses," and "problems."
- D. David admits his sin no less than six times in these first four verses.

## II. We Must Own Our Sin

- A. (Psalm 51:1-4).
- B. Note verse two... "my" iniquity and "my" sin.
- C. There is no attempt to shift blame.

## III. We Must Stop Trying to Hide Our Sin

- A. (Psalm 51:6).
- B. The repentant person doesn't live a double life...one for show and one for himself.
- C. God sees and knows all.

## IV. We Must Want God Back in our Lives

- A. (Psalm 51:11-12).
- B. The repentant person isn't absorbed in self but is thinking of God and how our sins have affected him and our relationship with him.

## V. We Must Be Concerned for Others

- A. (Psalm 51:13-15).
- B. Many of the staunchest advocates against various causes are former practitioners of the very things they oppose, but who have learned the hard way and don't want others to suffer.

## VI. We Must Be Broken

- A. (Psalm 51:16-17).
- B. Repentance is more than a rote ritual.

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, don't play games with repentance; pretending to repent.
  2. God is not mocked (Acts 17:30-31).