

Intro: We live in a society where the hero is the rebel. Everywhere you turn you are being sung the song of self-reliance and self-rule. Just look at the marketing strategies of the great corporations. If you buy a Chevy, you're a revolutionary because Chevy is the New American Revolution. They are trying to appeal to your rebel side. In our society every rebel has a voice to tell the world he doesn't have to do what he's told, so he blogs about it, thinking that every other person should also have his sense of freedom. Our movie heroes are single, rebellious against authority, self-determined, and don't answer to anybody. Even Harry Potter, the boy wizard, just cannot seem to obey those in authority over him and Ms. Rowling portrays it as courage. The courage to trust in yourself, the greatest of all virtues in this world.

But you have been called out from the world, O Christian. You have been called to give up and come completely undone of your own self-rule and to put all of your weight upon Jesus Christ as your Savior and as your Lord. You do not belong to yourself, for you have been bought with a price, the blood of the Lamb of God. You have been redeemed for a purpose: righteousness and holiness. Purity is your calling and *complete* trusting obedience to the risen and ruling Christ. So do not walk like the world, in the old ashes of self-rule and fruitless endeavors of sin, but rather come completely undone (repentance) of your own self-rule, for it is here in the broken-hearted giving up of repentance that God Himself dwells with you.

1. Do NOT Walk Like the World

a. *No longer*

- i. Faith in Jesus Christ includes a radical shift in our priorities and in our living
- ii. We used to be a part of this world, functioning according to its ways in the same futility of mind, etc. We were alienated and strangers to God and now in Christ we are strangers and pilgrims to this world.
 1. Heb 11:13-16
 2. 1 Peter 2:11-14

b. futility of mind

- i. not speaking of a lack of intelligence, or stupidity
- ii. the efforts of the mind do not bring about the desired results
 1. empty, fruitless, vain
 2. The world struggles and toils to try and gain peace, significance, forgiveness...in futility
 3. They seek significance *their way*, without repentance, and so struggle empty

c. darkened in their understanding

- i. 2 Cor 4:4 "in their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
- ii. The world still believes that, "I only need *some* help."
 1. James 4:1-3
 2. Even our prayers and requests of God for help are so that they can continue to live independently of Him.
 3. The world will not bow to the *exclusive* Lordship of Jesus, unbelieving that they are either 1) *completely* incapable of saving themselves, or 2) that God is not *completely* righteous and holy so He would never consider them an enemy
 - a. James 4:4 – "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

d. excluded from the life of God

i. ignorance in them

1. Deny or repress the righteousness of God (Rom 1:18ff) and His Lordship, and so exchange Him for other things to worship (rooted in our own power)
2. This desire to rule themselves leads to:

- a. hardness of their heart
 - i. Our ego blinds us to the Truth of our incapability and need of a Redeemer
 - ii. Sin begets sin and deceives us in arrogant and foolish stubbornness
- b. given themselves to sensuality
 - i. 1 Cor 6:9-10
 - ii. Our culture says, “Be who you want to be. Nobody can tell you what to do.”
 - 1. They’ll even build a burger just for a strong self-assured person like you
 - 2. If you buy this car, you’ll show everybody just how true to yourself you are and that nobody tells you what to do. You drive outside the lines.
 - iii. The futility of living according to our sensualities reveal that our craving for peace and truth is insatiable without Christ to fill it
 - 1. No amount of pleasure truly fills us up
 - 2. Self-deception of pleasure rather than the joyful repentance that leads to life in JC
- c. practicing every kind of impurity
 - i. What they believe about how to find joy will determine how we behave, feel, and think
 - 1. Seeking pleasure through sexual immorality and so idolize sex
 - 2. Seeking pleasure through wealth and so idolize money
 - 3. Seeking pleasure through reputation and so idolize power
 - 4. All these idols show that they have alienated themselves from God
- d. with greediness
 - i. They always want more, even when, by its nature, an idol has not brought fulfillment
 - ii. They are trying to barter with a system of belief, an idol, that makes promises of value and significance, but really can never fulfill those promises, so they continue to strive in futility

2. You Learned Christ Differently

- a. Jesus is learned!
 - i. We learned who Jesus is! He is the risen Lord over all the Universe! And He meets the repentant with blood-bought redemption and joy!
 - ii. No law will give us joy, only the Redeemer and His work brings us a heartfelt, God-glorifying restful joy!
 - 1. We did not learn Jesus in the same manner that we had learned our futile ways of thinking from the world
 - a. To come to Christ you have to repent
 - b. Repentance is: you come completely undone of ruling yourself and fall totally on the mercy of the reigning and risen Lord, Jesus.
 - 2. He is completely different
 - a. Are we submitting our understanding of Jesus to His revelation, or are we remaking Him into our image that we can control (pride vs. repentance)
 - b. Are we bowing to His Lordship as we accept His forgiveness?
 - 3. “I don’t worship doctrine, I worship Jesus” – WRONG
 - a. Jesus cannot be separated from doctrine, for He is TRUTH
 - b. Which Jesus?

- b. Jesus is separate from the lusts of deceit and the ways of the world
 - i. He calls us to righteousness and holiness
 - ii. He calls us out from the world to follow Him
3. Lay Aside the Old Self - Repentance
- a. being corrupted in lusts of deceit
 - i. ultimately your old nature (ego) is writing checks it can't pay, it has an over-desire for glory and it has deceived itself
 - 1. it cannot perform well enough to earn the verdict of righteous
 - 2. Sin promises fullness of life, but in the end it destroys us and alienates us from God, enslaving us with terrible mastery
 - ii. lusts = over-desires (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5; 1 Tim 1:10; Rom 1:18-32)
 - 1. Sexuality – overdesire for sexual fulfillment, misplaced desire for love, sin
 - 2. Greed – overdesire for money/wealth, misplaced desire for security, sin
 - 3. Violence – overdesire for power, misplaced desire for significance, sin
 - iii. All deny the holy righteousness of the risen Lord and His authority and strive instead for one's own personal pleasure
 - b. be renewed in the spirit of your mind
 - i. These acts are daily occurrences in the Christian walk. It is an act of daily preaching and applying the Gospel *to our minds and hearts* so that the Truth, Jesus, is worked within us by the power of the Holy Spirit and leads to **WALKING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - ii. You were made a son or daughter at that one point in time in which you first repented of your own self-rule and trusted in the reign and redemption of the risen Lord, but you learn Jesus and put off the old clothes of self-dependency and put on the new clothes of righteousness by applying the TRUTH of Jesus to the lusts of deceit
 - c. **REPENTANCE** is the necessary step of faith toward Jesus. It is letting go of your “right” to rule yourself, to make up your own mind, and to have your mind transformed by the Holy Spirit into **RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - i. If faith is the “putting all your weight upon” Jesus, then repentance is the buckling of your knees. You cannot put your weight upon Jesus until you take your weight off of your own two feet!
 - ii. Repentance is not a work anymore than faith is a work
 - 1. Faith is the receiving of God's gift of grace in Jesus
 - 2. Repentance is the “giving up” of my own “lordship” over my life
 - iii. Repentance is how we enter the Kingdom and how we walk in the Kingdom
 - 1. Repentance AND Faith are inseparable in the Gospel call: two sides of the same coin (you wouldn't accept a one-sided dollar, neither can you have faith without repentance)
 - a. Matt 4:17 – Jesus called us away from the world
 - b. Luke 24:47 – Paul preached repentance
 - c. Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18 – Gospel proclamation is to repent
 - d. 2 Cor 7:10 – Godly sorrow brings repentance leading to salvation
 - 2. Repentance AND Faith are the way in which we continue to walk
 - a. Matt 3:8 – bear fruit in keeping with repentance
 - b. Eph 5:8 – walk like children of Light, not former darkness
 - c. 1 John 2:1-7 – if we love Him, we will obey Him
 - d. 1 John 3:4-10 – choosing to live in sin shows one is not born of God
 - e. 2 Cor 7:8-10 – godly repentance brings life
 - f. Col 1:21-23 – don't shift from repentance (leaving evil deeds)
 - g. Col 2:6-7 – as you received Him (repentant faith) so walk in Him

4. Put On the New Self - Faith

- a. There is the inferred promise of the Gospel in this statement: You have been made new
 - i. 2 Cor 5:17
 1. This is a wonderful promise to those who know that they are broken people with broken desires and broken lives.
 2. Jesus rushes in to meet with repentant sinners! God draws near and dwells with the contrite, the broken-hearted (Is 57:15; 66:2; James 4:7-10; Ps 34:18; 56:8; 145:18)
 - ii. Galatians 5:17ff
 1. If you are in Christ you have the Holy Spirit within you!! What a promise!!
 2. The HS battles *against* the flesh, moving us toward holiness by wrestling and fighting against sin within us
 3. Again, God draws near to the powerless, the broken-hearted, the ones who know that they're not OK with sin, but are devastated by its presence in their lives
 - iii. Rom 8:5-10
 1. We set our minds upon the Spirit, not upon the flesh
 2. We depend upon and obey the Spirit, not the flesh
 3. We now are enemies of sin, we do not make peace with it in our lives
- b. created in righteousness and holiness of the truth in God
 - i. Remind ourselves always of what Jesus Christ has done: You are desperately more wicked than you can even fathom right now, but you are immensely more loved than you have ever dared to hope.
 - ii. What is our Christ-esteem? Do you love Him for it? Has He wooed you in such a way to obtain your deepest love?
 - iii. The only walk to think and walk that is not futile and empty is that which is in-line with His righteousness and holiness. It is our love for Jesus that calls us to repent daily and turn away from sin, fighting against it by the power of the Holy Spirit! Jesus is the one who saves, redeems, renews, and restores!

Conclusion:

O Christian remember this: Jesus did not die merely to save you from your sins, but also to purify you from all sin and self-rule. The purpose of the Cross is forgiveness AND purity. To continue to walk in sin, according to the Flesh, in sensuality and striving after the winds of pleasure and self-rule rather than the broken-hearted joy of coming completely undone in humility is to set yourself at odds with the Cross of Christ.

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The beauty of repentance, coming completely undone, is that our God has bound Himself to the repentant. He promises to be near those who come to end of themselves in tearful humility and brokenness over sins deep sway.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

So, as those who have been redeemed not with silver or gold, but with the blood of the eternal covenant, let us not walk in the former ways of sin, but let us set our hearts on righteousness and our ways upon the purity of holiness, for the Lord draws near to the brokenhearted and meets them with joy.