

# WALKING IN FAITH AND REPENTANCE

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Introduction: One man's story

## A. Is Authentic Change Possible?

1. Cultural definitions of change
  - a. Desire change
  - b. Orientation change
  - c. Lifestyle change
  - d. Affections change
2. Scripture's definition of change
  - a. Heart change...
    - Ezekiel 11:19–20
  - b. ...leading to behavioral change...
    - Romans 12:1–2
  - c. ...resulting in orientation change
    - 2 Corinthians 5:14–17
  - d. Ongoing, progressive heart change wedded to ongoing, progressive behavioral change is called repentance.
    - Romans 2:4
3. Some take-aways from these insights into repentance
  - a. Behavioral change is distinct from heart change.
  - b. Heart change always precedes authentic behavioral change.
  - c. The focus of repentance can't be merely behavioral.
  - d. Authentic repentance must be rooted in the struggler growing in his or her self-identification as one united to Christ by grace, through faith.
  - e. Repentance is rooted in discipleship, which necessarily involves community in the Church.

## B. What Does Authentic Repentance Look Like?

1. Authentic repentance is lifelong.
2. Authentic repentance is progressive.
3. Authentic repentance is best observed by trends.
4. Authentic repentance must involve community.
  - a. Hebrews 3:12–13
  - b. Galatians 6:1–2
  - c. James 5:13–20
5. Authentic repentance must help the struggler answer the question: “What difference does the Person and Work of Jesus Christ make for me in the particular ways in which I struggle with unbelief and idolatry?”



6. Authentic repentance is accomplished progressively through three modes:
  - a. Discipleship
  - b. Living transparently in community
  - c. Proactive accountability

## C. What Is the Church's Role in Cultivating Authentic Repentance?

1. Practice prayer and fasting.
2. Love the members and attenders of the Church well.
3. Be careful how you speak about same-sex behavior and gender dysphoria.
  - Colossians 4:5–6

4. Welcome willing strugglers into authentic community.
5. Speak the truth in love, emphasizing God's grace in salvation and sanctification.
  - Ephesians 2:8–10
6. Provide opportunities for discipleship.
  - a. Be prayerful
  - b. Be proactive
  - c. Be practical

#### **D. What Is the Struggler's Role in Living Out Authentic Repentance?**

1. Humble, leader-led prayer and fasting
2. A commitment to radical transparency
3. A commitment to radical humility
4. A commitment to discipleship
5. An increasing focus on others, not on oneself
6. Cutting off the means to sin
7. Cutting off relationships and exposure to triggering situations and places