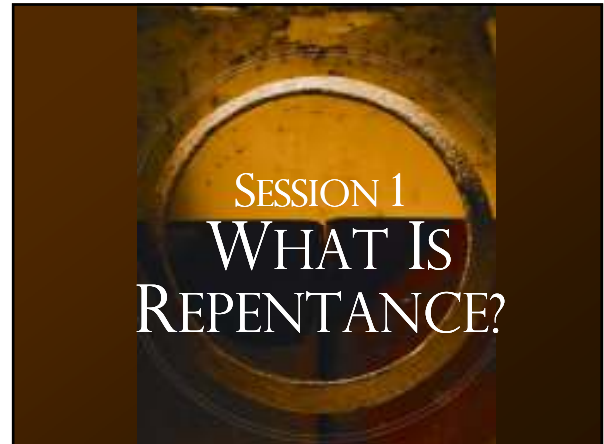




REPENTANCE

LONDON TEACHING DAY
30 MARCH 2008



SESSION 1 WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

REPENTANCE THE FIRST WORD OF THE GOSPEL

- John the Baptist breaks 300 years of prophetic silence with the first word of the gospel: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!" (*Matthew 3:2*)
- Jesus' first public message: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!" (*Matthew 4:17*)
- "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!" (*Mark 1:15*)

REPENTANCE THE RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

- *Matthew 3:7-8* But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance."
- *Matthew 11:20* Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.
- *Mark 6:12* So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.
- *Luke 13:3* No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
- *Luke 15:7* Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- *Luke 24:47* and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

REPENTANCE THE RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

- *Act 2:38* And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- *Act 17:30* The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent
- *Act 20:21* testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- *Act 26:19-20* "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance
- *Rev 3:19* Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO REPENTANCE?

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

- **Whatever Happened to Repentance?**
 - Precious little preaching and even less evidence in today's evangelical church
 - Forgiveness without Repentance; Jesus is Savior but not Lord
 - Which is easier to say... "Your sins are forgiven" or "Your entire life can be different, better"
- **The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience**
 - A new scandal grips evangelical Christianity... it's not among "Televangelists" but among the entire body of members
 - Pollsters have begun to measure the values, attitudes, and lifestyle choices of "Born Again" Christians... with terrifying results!

A WORD STUDY OF REPENTANCE

REPENTANCE – METANOIA

OT Hebrew

Shub



OT Greek

epistrepho

Naham

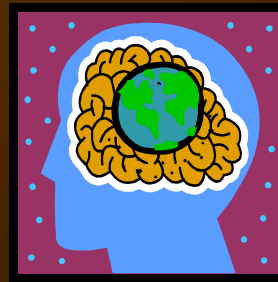


metamelomai

NT Greek

**Μετανοια or
Metanoia**

"-NOIA" = MINDSET



- **Nous** = Mind or Mindset
- Worldview or a Kingdomview
- How You Make Sense of the World
- Your Philosophy of Life
- The Rules by which you play the game of life

PARA-NOIA

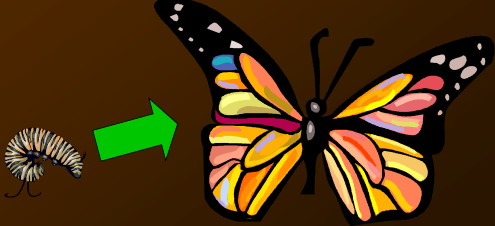
- A distorted worldview or philosophy of life
- A warped mindset
- The Greek prefix *PARA* means to pass by or to skew off to the side
- **παράνοια** means madness or foolishness in Greek



A LEADING JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY EMPLOYS THE GREEK WORD *NOÛS* FOR ITS TITLE

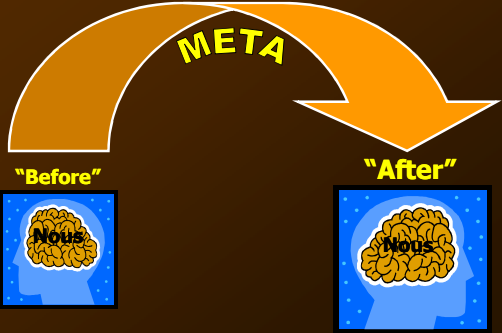
"META-" = CHANGE

- Meta-morphosis = transformation




- Meta = "After" to focus on the future rather than on the past

"METANOIA" (μετανοια)



"METANOIA" (μετανοια)



"Before"


- "I am Lord"
- Unbelief
- Worldview
- Futile Mind

"After"

- "Jesus is Lord!"
- Belief
- Kingdomview
- Renewed Mind

"METANOIA" (μετανοια)

- Change Your Mindset
- Change Your entire Philosophy of Life
- Change All the Rules by which You play the game of Life
- Rearrange all your affections, ambitions, agenda and allegiances
- Change your Worldview (actually change your Worldview to a Kingdomview)



"METANOIA"

BIBLICAL PARALLELS

- Luke 15:17 "He came to his senses"
- Luke 24:45 "He opened their minds"
- Acts 26:18 "Open your eyes and turn them from darkness to light"
- Romans 12:2 "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
- Ephesians 4:22-24 "put off your old self,... to be renewed in the attitude of your mind; and to put on the new self"
- Colossians 3:2 "Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."
- 1 Peter 2:24 "cease from sinning and live for righteousness."
- 2 Corinthians 5:15 "no longer live for self but for Him"

REPENTANCE

TURNING FROM SELF TO CHRIST

Self – Righteous	Self – Confident
Self – Focused	Self – Congratulation
Self – Determined	Self – Important
Self – Anointed	Self – Justified
Self – Promotion	Self – Serving
Self – Praise	Self – Satisfied
Self – Centered	Self – Seeking
Self – Sufficient	Self – Published

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

- 2 Co 5:14-15 NIV

REPENTANCE COMMON DEFINITIONS

- Repentance:** (1) "to feel sorry, self reproachful, or contrite for past conduct; regret or be conscience stricken about past action, attitude, etc."
 (2) "to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one's life for the better; to be penitent"

-Webster's Unabridged Encyclopedic Dictionary
of the English Language



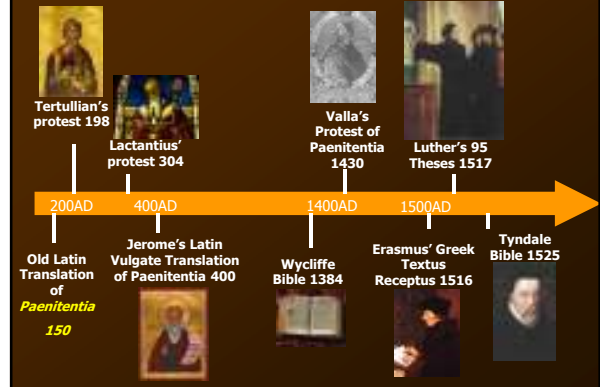
SIDE NOTE ON DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS



HOW DID THE WEST LOSE SIGHT OF *METANOIA*?

- In 150AD, Latin became a dominant language – rivaling koine Greek in popularity throughout the Roman empire.
- An old Latin translation of the Bible rendered "*Metanoia*" as "*Penitentia*"
- "*Penitentia*" stresses punishment, pain, penance, and the past while *Metanoia* looks forward to an exciting future.
- The Latin Vulgate Translation was the only bible available which influenced western Christian thought until 1525AD... almost 1400 years of dominance of *penitentia*.
- The effects: Sacramentalism (Penance) or Emotionalism (weeping over the need to change)... both faced Christians in the wrong direction - backwards

WHAT HAPPENED?



SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON REPENTANCE



METANOIA DOES NOT EQUAL CONFESSION

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. **Confessing** their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with **repentance.**"

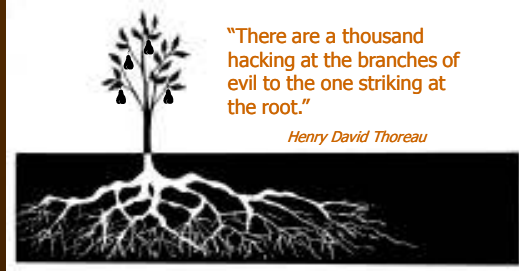
MATTHEW 3:5-8

METANOIA DOES NOT EQUAL SORROW

- 2nd Corinthians 7:10 "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation, but worldly sorrow brings death."
- Godly sorrow leads to repentance but is not repentance itself.
- Worldly sorrow undermines repentance, but it is most often confused with repentance (penitencia).
- Signs of Worldly sorrow
 - Excuse Making
 - Self Pity
 - Selectivity
 - Damage Control



METANOIA DOES NOT EQUAL THE FRUIT OF METANOIA



- Matthew 3:8
- Behavior change vs. Heart & Mind change

METANOIA ALWAYS BEARS THE GOOD FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

- The axe is already at the root of the tree
- Every one who does not bear the good fruit of repentance will be cut down and thrown into the fire

REPENTANCE AND ITS FRUIT

- **Luke 3:10-14**
- Change the rules about your possessions
 - Share your food
 - Share your clothing
- Change the rules about your Job
 - Conduct your life with integrity
- Change the rules about the Truth
 - No lies
 - No shortcuts
- As each person repents and begins to share food, share clothes, government integrity, workers' integrity, pure honesty... what would that look like?

"WHAT THEN SHOULD I DO?"

Imagine Asking (Luke 3) John the Baptist:

- *What one thing should I start doing?*
- *What one thing should I stop doing?*
- *What's the change of my mindset that would produce this fruit?*

Stay tuned for "How Do I Repent?"



CLOSING CHARGE



SESSION 2 HOW DO I REPENT?

THE WHAT, WHY, & HOW

- What is Repentance?
- Why must I Repent?
- So... ***How do I Repent???***

GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE

- **Act 5:31** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to **give repentance** to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- **Act 11:18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has **granted repentance** that leads to life."
- **2Ti 2:24** And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps **grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will

GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE, BUT....

- Not all Jews repented (Acts 5:31)
- Not all Gentiles repented (Acts 11:18)
- Not all "opponents" repented (2Tim 2:24)
- His Gift of repentance is not "irresistible," but it is nonetheless offered to all
- But... How?

THE MOURNER'S BENCH



How does God grant
Repentance?

Mediately or Immediately

CASE STUDY IN HOW GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE



BEFORE PICTURE

*"Set Uriah in the
forefront of the hardest
fighting, and then
draw back from him,
that he may be struck
down, and die"*

AFTER PICTURE

*"For I knew my
transgressions, and my sin
is ever before me. Against
you, you only, have I
sinned and done what is evil
in your sight."*

YOU ARE THAT MAN!!!



HOW? “ELENCHO” (Ελεγχω)

Ελεγχω (ELENCHO)

“to show someone his sin and to summon him to repentance.”

— William Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, Frederick W. Danker and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*

REPROOF VS. REBUKE ELENCHO VS. EPITIMAO

... in this possibility of “rebuking” for sin, without “convincing” of sin, lies the distinction between these two words. In *Epitimaō* lies **simply the notion of rebuking**; which ... can therefore be used of one unjustly checking or blaming another; in this sense Peter began to rebuke his Lord (Matt. 16:22; cf. 19:13; Luke 18:39): —or ineffectually, and without any profit to the person rebuked, who is not thereby brought to see his sin; as when the penitent robber rebuked (*Epitimaō*) his fellow malefactor (Luke 23:40; cf. Mark 9:25).

But *Elegcho* is a **much more pregnant word**; it is so to rebuke another, with such **effectual wielding of the victorious arms of the truth**, as to bring him, if not always to a confession, yet at least to a conviction, of his sin (Job 5:17; Proverbs 19:25), just as in juristic Greek.
Synonyms of the New Testament 9th edition

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US

- **John 16:8** And when he comes, he will **convict** the world about sin and righteousness and judgment
- **John 3:20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be **exposed**.
- **Ephesians 5:11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose** them. **Ephesians 5:13** but everything **exposed** by the light becomes visible
- **1 Timothy 5:20** As for those who persist in sin, **rebuke** them in the presence of all, so that the rest also may stand in fear.
- **Titus 1:9** He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to **retute** those who contradict it.
- **Titus 1:13** That testimony is true. For this reason **rebuke** them sharply, so that they may become sound in the faith,
- **Titus 2:15** Declare these things; exhort and **reprove** with all authority.

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US

- **Proverbs 3:11** My child, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his **reproof**,
- **Proverbs 9:7** Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever **rebukes** the wicked gets hurt.
- **Proverbs 9:8** A scoffer who is **rebuked** will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you.
- **Proverbs 10:10** Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, but the one who **rebukes** boldly makes peace.
- **Proverbs 15:12** Scoffers do not like to be **rebuked**; they will not go to the wise.
- **Proverbs 18:17** The one who first states a case seems right, until the other comes and **cross-examines**.
- **Proverbs 19:25** Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; **reprove** the intelligent, and they will gain knowledge.
- **Proverbs 24:25** but those who **rebuke** the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.
- **Proverbs 28:23** Whoever **rebukes** a person will afterward find more favor than one who flatters with the tongue.

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US

- **Matthew 18:15** If your brother sins, go and **show him his fault** in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.
- **1 Corinthians 14:24-25** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is **convicted** by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.
- **Revelation 3:19** I **reprove** and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

AND THE CROSS COMPELS US

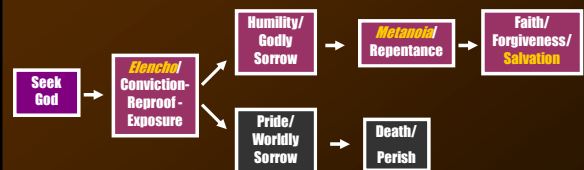
- **2 Corinthians 5:14-16** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.
- **1 Peter 2:24-25** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

AND THE CHURCH ORIENTS US



Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you, so that *at the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be established*. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. If he refuses to listen to the church, treat him like a Gentile or a tax collector." -NET Bible

FOR THE ENGINEERS AMONG US...

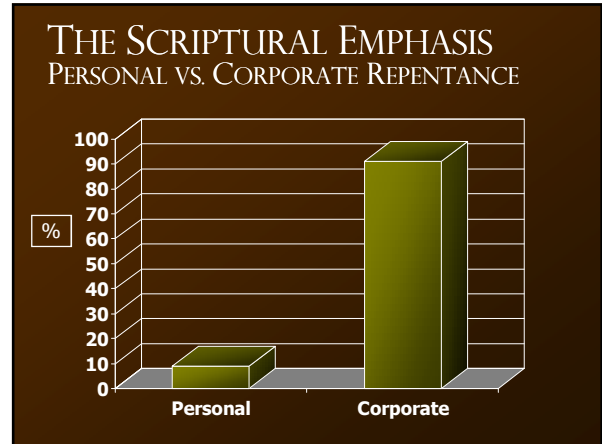


ELENCHO-METANOIA-REVIVAL

- Where there is sin and self, the Holy Spirit pursues convicting reproof (*Elencho*)
- With reproof comes repentance
- And with repentance comes revival
- How do **WE** repent?.... Our next session.

CLOSING CHARGE

SESSION 3 HOW DO WE REPENT?



C. S. LEWIS ON COMMUNITY

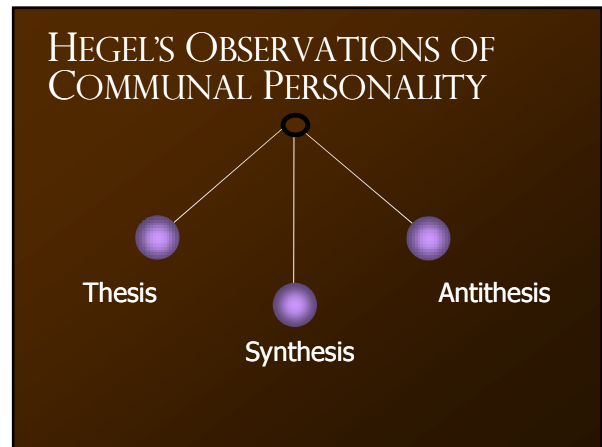
"You know that among human beings, when they get together in a family, or a club, or a trades union, people talk about the 'spirit' of that family, or club, or trades union. They talk about its 'spirit' because the individual members, when they're together, do really develop particular ways of talking and behaving which they wouldn't have if they were apart (This corporate behaviour may, of course, be either better or worse than their individual behaviour). It is as if a sort of **communal personality** came into existence. Of course it isn't a real person: it is only like a person."

-Mere Christianity page 95 "The Good Infection"

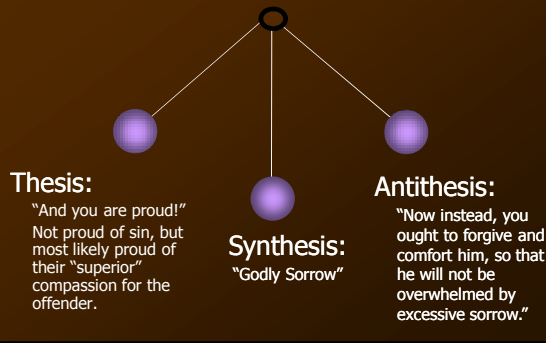
- ### EXPRESSIONS OF THE COMMUNAL PERSONALITY
- Corporate Culture
 - Group Dynamic
 - Team Spirit
 - Community Climate
 - Ethos

THE ULTIMATE CORPORATE ENTITY: THE BODY OF CHRIST

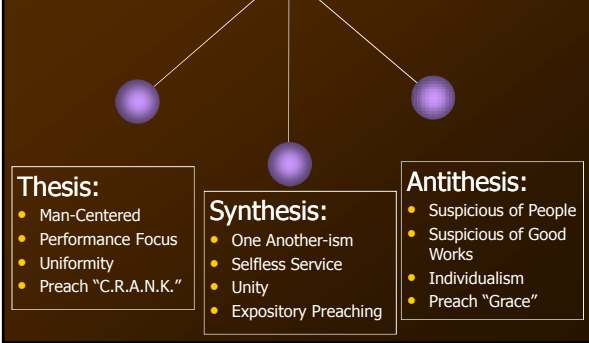
- Jesus earnestly prayed *that they may become perfectly one* (John 17:23, ESV).
- One in mind, heart, and purpose
- Together, they redefine "normal" as they form a societal sanctuary. What is normal?
- In the Church, it's normal to be *of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had* (Philippians 2:2-5, NET).
- Normal, it seems, is to be likeminded. More specifically, it is to be Christ-minded. Thus, the Church uniformly conforms to Jesus' mindset.



CORINTH CASE STUDY



OUR HISTORY



REPENTANCE TURNING FROM SELF TO CHRIST

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Self — Righteous | Self — Confident |
| Self — Focused | Self — Congratulation |
| Self — Determined | Self — Important |
| Self — Anointed | Self — Justified |
| Self — Promotion | Self — Serving |
| Self — Praise | Self — Satisfied |
| Self — Centered | Self — Seeking |
| Self — Sufficient | Self — Involved |

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Co 5:14-15 NIV

REPENTANCE TURNING FROM INDIVIDUALISM TO COMMUNITY

*"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being **likeminded**, having the **same purpose**. Do nothing out of **selfish ambition** or **vain conceit**, but in **humility consider others** better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your **own interests**, but also to the **interests of others**. Your attitude (**mindset**) should be the same as that of **Christ Jesus**."*

Philippians 2:1-4

See Also: Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37

REPENTANCE OVERCOMING A WESTERN WORLDVIEW

- Alexis de Tocqueville, in *Democracy in America* (1835), described Americans as
 - highly individualistic and believed that this individualism was inseparable from the new American concept of egalitarian democracy
 - "Selfishness originates in blind instinct; individualism proceeds from erroneous judgment more than from depraved feelings; it originates as much in deficiencies of mind as in perversity of heart. Selfishness blights the germ of all virtue; individualism, at first, only saps the virtues of public life; but in the long run it attacks and destroys all others and is at length absorbed in downright selfishness."

CORPORATE SIN & REPENTANCE

- If an individual sins, he or she must repent
- If a corporate body sins, it must repent
- So how does a community sin?
- And how does a community repent?

SO HOW DOES A CHURCH REPENT?

- Recent Misguided efforts:
 - “Line-in-the-Sand Reconstructions”
 - “Call for Rebellion”
 - “Establish a Rival Church”
- Method Most often employed by us Evangelists:
 - “Optimism” coupled with calls for personal repentance

FOUR COMMON BIBLICAL ELEMENTS OF CORPORATE REPENTANCE

1. A Prophet deployed by the Holy Spirit
2. Humble Leaders
3. A Solemn Assembly of the entire body
4. Renewal of a Covenant with God

1. PROPHETS WHO REPROVE



PROPHETS WHO REPROVE

- We can't see the forest for the trees
- We're all frogs in the same kettle... seek someone who hasn't become acclimated to your group dynamic
- That's one reason why all prophets are first “set apart” or consecrated
- OT Prophets exposed the waywardness of the nations, especially Israel and Judah
- John the Baptist was consecrated in order to reprove and prepare Israel for the Christ
- Paul's letter to Corinth serves as a Corporate Reproof
- Jesus' letters in Revelation are Corporate Reproofs (see Revelation 3:20), calling for *Metanoia*



2. HUMBLE LEADERS MODEL GODLY SORROW

- *David* (2 Samuel 6-7 via Nathan)
- *Asa* (2 Chronicles 14-16 via Azariah)
- *Jehoshaphat* (2 Chronicles 17-20)
- *Hezekiah* (2 Chronicles 29-32)
- *Manasseh* (2 Chronicles 33)
- *Josiah* (2 Chronicles 34-35)
- *Nehemiah* (Nehemiah 1-13)
- *Ezra* (Ezra 7-10)
- *King of Nineveh* (Jonah 3)

3. THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

These Solemn Assemblies Permitted a Corporate Response to God's Reproof...

- *Leviticus 26* (the prescription & prophecy)
- *2 Chronicles 15:9-15(Asa), 20:3-13(Jehoshaphat), 29-30(Hezekiah), 34:29-33(Josiah)*
- *Ezra 9:3-10; Nehemiah 8-10*
- *Joel 1:13, 2:12-17ff*
- Each assembly involved Godly Sorrow, Confession, and Rededication.
- We, as a church, gather in a solemn assembly to
 - express our communal godly sorrow,
 - confess our personal responsibility for corporate sin, and
 - prepare to rededicate ourselves collectively to Jesus.

THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

A model for a New Covenant Solemn Assembly might include:

- Prior to the Assembly: Time of fasting and prayer by all members - and a call for personal repentance
- Set time for the solemn assembly - perhaps a Saturday or Sunday afternoon (ask a nearby church to help with childcare to facilitate 100% participation)
- Reproof from Scriptures that captures the climate/culture and even the dysfunction of our church (e.g. Rev 2-3)
- Reassurance of solidarity... we all got us into this and we're turning back to God TOGETHER (no one left behind)
- All members confess to their **own** role in promoting or perpetuating the **corporate** dysfunction/sin (**Godly sorrow**)
- After a short break, read scriptures that describe where the church will be heading (**Metanoia** – facing forward)

4. RENEWED COVENANT

• The Solemn Assembly Concludes with Covenant Renewal:

- Each member prays and commits themselves to communion in this new direction
- Ratify the communion via Communion by breaking bread (proclaiming our communion with one another and with Christ – **1 Cor 10:14-17, Phil 2!!!**).
- Punctuate the entire assembly with grace... through the Cup as our sinful past is washed away by Jesus' blood (**1Cor 11:25, 1 John 1:6-10!!!**)
- Celebrate repentance with a feast!!!
- ...**That Times of Refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord!!!**

