

THE REPENTANCE



Contact-us

17 Sibelius, Retreat Cape Town 7549
Afrique du Sud +27 817 609 511
info@mevchristocentrique.org
mevchristocentrique.org

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30).

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30).

Repentance, which comes from the verb to repent, reminds the people of God of an act of humility, which consists in recognizing their faults, confessing them to God and renouncing (turning away from) them. Drawing also on the parable of the "return of the prodigal son", in Luke 15:17-24, we begin a meditation based on two key words: CONFESS and RENOUNCE. "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (Proverbs 28:13). *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

To reveal God's infinite goodness in relation to human justice, we can evoke in criminal law the notion of "active repentance", which, once the offence has been consummated (perpetrated), does not constitute a cause of justification for the benefit of the offender and does not cancel out the penalty (sanction), except, in the extreme case, to consider "repentance" as a mitigating circumstance, but, even in the latter case, the offender will still be condemned. God's justice, on the other hand, teaches that "repentance" or, in other words, "to repent", in prayer and humility, is always intended to be a cause of "forgiveness" on God's part, regardless of the fact that the sin has been committed, and this under both the Old and New Covenants.

In Christ, God's justice is our justification, in that it grants us forgiveness and the erasure of our sins: it is the "JUSTIFYING" justice. It often happens that acknowledging a sin is just an act of confession performed by the Christian as a religious formality (soul-healing, confession...); but renouncing sin is an act of renunciation of "self" to elevate the throne of God.

Turning away from sin is a combined process of the "will" of the repentant and the "Grace" of God, in Jesus Christ. The will is a force of the Spirit acting within us, not an active effort of conscience or intelligence based on human wisdom, although wisdom refers to values that sometimes vary according to place and time. Human wisdom is relative. The will to repent manifests itself in us when our heart burns so much with the desire to be cleansed of sin, because of which we experience intense grief, which leads us to seek peace with our heavenly Father. This state of being is deeply spiritual, not just psychological.

Indeed, the Word exhorts us in Psalm 51:17 as follows: "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." When we apply ourselves to an exercise where repentance is seen as a routine act of "confession", to ease our conscience and rearm our moral state, then we find ourselves in a context other than that of repentance.

At this level of consideration, to situate repentance in "one's conscience" and not in "one's heart" remains simply a moral and psychological act, consisting in relieving our "ego" to be at peace with ourselves,

for a while, knowing very well that we're going to do it again, or, at worst, even having already conceived a strategic plan to get back into another forfeit. Where, then, is the renunciation? Some even pretend to repent just to escape the disastrous consequences of the act they have committed, and once these consequences have passed or been repaired, they deliberately return to their previous behaviour. As we said earlier, this approach only serves to soothe the ego, to clear the conscience and be at peace with oneself.

King David, the man after God's own heart despite his

faults, had this in particular: HUMILITY, SINCERITY and the readiness to ask God for FORGIVENESS and above all to RENOUNCE: a repentant heart (confess and renounce). King David feared God.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ died for us, He bore our sins in His human body and, because of this, He suffered. Let us repent, put on wedding garments and approach the banquet table to honour our Lord.

May the Holy Spirit touch our hearts and lead us to sincere repentance.