

The Problem Is You Won't Repent by Tim

by Tim Conway

Tim Conway emphasizes that the true barrier to repentance is often self-righteousness and a refusal to come to God in helplessness.

Duration: 4:53

Scripture: Isaiah 55:7, Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30, James 4:8, 2 Peter 3:9

Topics: "True Repentance", "Salvation Grace"

Description

This sermon addresses the issue of people claiming they can't repent, highlighting the underlying problem of unwillingness rather than inability. It emphasizes the importance of true repentance, not self-righteous acts or attempts to manipulate God into saving them. The message stresses the need for genuine helplessness and surrender to God's terms for repentance, rather than trying to earn salvation through personal efforts.

Transcript

If you have someone who, like, for months has been saying, like, I just feel dead, no, I can't repent, or I'm trying to repent, you know what I'm talking about? It's going on a lot. Is it OK to tell them, I don't know if what I'm telling someone is, like, pray for regenerative art, but I tell them, like, if you feel dead, go to the life giver who, you know, will raise us to heaven? Like, is that the same thing as saying, well, go pray to God that you'll be alive? See, the problem with the people that say that they can't repent is the real issue is they won't repent. Again, you know what? Don't even cater and coddle people that say, I can't repent.

Because again, you know what they've done? They've shifted the blame. You know what they're effectually saying? I want to repent if I could. I have a will to repent.

I have a desire to repent. And I would if God would let me. He's the problem.

He's not letting me repent. I would. My intention's good.

God is bad. Now, they won't say it that way, but that's really what they mean. That's really what they're saying.

Listen, the Bible says repent. That's what it is. Guarantee it.

What they're saying is, God won't take me on my terms. They're saying, I want to manufacture repentance of my own making. I'm not willing to turn from everything.

And in fact, a lot of times it's just a self-righteousness where they're trying to work out a repentance. They're trying to make God save them rather than when Peter's sinking, it's just, Lord, help! Rather than just in utter helplessness crying out to Christ. They don't feel utterly helpless.

They're like, okay, I'm going to clean my life up. Look, Lord, look what I've done. I've tried to make myself pretty, and He's not saving me.

Look at these things I've given up. Sometimes what they're not giving up is their own self-righteousness. They want to manipulate God.

They want to make God their debtor. In other words, they want to put God in a place where He has to save them rather than coming absolutely helpless, absolutely hopeless, and just crying out for help, falling totally incapacitated into His hands. Man is bent on offering something.

And don't you believe it? And I know it's hard. It's hard as a pastor. You get the people coming to you.

You were one of them! You get these people coming to you and they're all distressed and sometimes they're in tears and they're so frustrated. And I'm trying to repent, but I can't. And it can get the person that's trying to minister to the person feeling frustrated with God.

Like, Lord, they want to and You're not doing this! And see, you don't want to let the sinner turn, because I'll tell you this, look, this does not conflict with God's sovereignty at all. Is it God's desire that men repent? Yes. How do I know? Because He commanded all men everywhere to repent.

If He commanded them everywhere to repent, then it's His desire that they repent. And the fact is, I mean, what can I say to the sinner? I repented, so it's possible. I want you to repent.

God commands you to repent. He wants you to repent. Jesus Christ came preaching, repent.

He wants you to repent. And the Spirit of God inspired the Word over and over. It says repent.

Certainly He wants you to repent. I mean, the fact is, the Trinity calls upon man to repent. I'm calling upon you to repent.

Many people here have repented. And you're telling me you can't. What I'm telling you is you won't.

The real problem is, the sinner won't. And I guarantee you every single time, you can trace it back to self-righteousness. Always.

Always.

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