

# The Doctrine of Repentance—*Thomas Watson*

## Chapter Four — *The Nature of True Repentance*

- I. *Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed.* It is a spiritual medicine made up of six special ingredients. If any one is left out it loses its virtue.
  - A. **Shame for Sin**—repentance causes a holy bashfulness, Lk 12.51; Ezk 43.10. There are nine considerations about sin which may cause shame:
    1. Every sin makes us guilty, and guilt breeds shame.
    2. In every sin there is much unthankfulness, which is a matter of shame, for we have sinned against God when He has given us no cause to do so (Jer 2.5). He has been nothing but merciful, fruitful, kind, patient, and good to us. Are these things so wearisome to us that we return his favors with sin!? We have abused His kindness, requited His goodness with our evil, and made an arrow of His own mercies to shoot back at Him. Unthankfulness is a sin so great that God Himself stands amazed at it, Isa 1.2-3.
    3. Sin has made us naked, which breeds shame. Sin stripped us of our white linen of holiness and made us naked before God's eyes.
    4. Our sins have put Christ to shame, causing Him to bear the shame of their mocking and the shame of the cursed cross. Can we abide this truth and not blush with shame?
    5. Many sins which we commit are by the special instigation of the devil, and should not this cause us shame? Jn 13.2; Acts 5.3; Js 3.6.
    6. Sin turns men into beasts, Ps 49.12, which should make us ashamed. Sinners are compared to foxes (Lk 13.32), wolves (Mt 7.15), to donkeys (Job 11.12), to swine (2Pet 2.22). How this should make us ashamed, that we are degenerated by our sin below our own species. The crown has fallen from our heads, God's image is defaced, reason is eclipsed, and conscience is stupefied.
    7. In every sin there is folly, Jer 4.22. Is not he a fool that will believe a temptation before a promise? who minds his recreation more than his salvation? who pampers the dying body but starves the undying soul? who washes and paints the face but stains and scars the soul?
    8. The sins *we* commit are far worse than the sins of the heathen, for we act against more light. The sin committed by a Christian is worse than the same committed by an unbeliever because the Christian sins against clearer conviction.
    9. Our sins are worse than the sins of the devils, for we sin against Christ's blood. Christ died and shed His blood for us in order to break the dominion of sin in our lives. We sin against God's patience, and against the Spirit's leading.
  - B. **Uses:**
    1. If shame is an ingredient of repentance, then how far are they from repentance who have no shame!
      - a) Many have sinned away shame, Zech 3.5. It's a great shame not to be ashamed, Jer 6.15.
      - b) When men have hearts of stone and foreheads of brass, it is a sign that the devil has taken full possession of them. There is no creature capable of shame but man, so that when man has given up all his shame, he has become like the beasts that perish.
      - c) Some are so far from this holy blushing that they are proud of their sins.
      - d) Others glory in their sins, Phil 3.19.
    2. Let us show our penitence by a modest blushing, Ezra 9.6.

**\*Next Study — Apr 19: The Nature of True Repentance: Hatred for Sin**