

FEELING SORRY FOR SIN

Request: “I have been told that we must feel sorry for our sins and to ask forgiveness in order to be cleansed from it.” Would you do a study on it?”

Feeling sorry for sin comes from a misinterpretation of the Greek word for repentance and the Catholic Church teaching of penitence.

This lesson will study five aspects of a false teaching within Christianity involving a requirement of feeling sorry for sin and asking for forgiveness in order to be cleansed from the sin.

1. The Catholic Church has a sacrament doctrine called penitence. In Latin, it refers to feeling sorry for sin.

Their doctrine of **penitence** is based on the premise that no sin is beyond forgiveness if it is followed by true penance.

- **Penance** A sacramental rite that is practiced in Roman, Eastern, and some Anglican churches. It consists of private confession, absolution, and a penance directed by the confessor (priest) for remission of sins.
- **Sacrament** A formal religious act that is sacred as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality (such as Catholic Eucharist). (Webster 9th New Collegiate Dictionary)
- **Ordinance** An authoritative decree or direction (such as Protestant Eucharist) (Webster 9th)

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is a holy and royal priest under the high priesthood office of Jesus Christ. (1 Pet.2:5, 9; **Heb.4:14-16**; 7:26).

2. Penitence is an unnecessary step in cleansing from sin either in salvation or spirituality because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for the sins of the world – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!” (John 1:29)

(John 19:30) “When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” (Tetelestai / perf.p.ind.3ps / teleo)

How you feel about sitting on death row of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) has nothing to do with being acquitted by the mercy of God!

(1 Cor.15:22) “For in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

(1 John 2:2) “And He Himself is the propitiation (hilasmos) [appease the wrath of God and receive God’s mercy] for our sins; and not only ours only, but also those of the whole world.”
(1 John 4:10; Rom.3:21-25)

3. What you believe determines whether you get acquitted from AOS and not how you feel.

(Rom.1:16) “I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to **everyone who believes**, to the Jews first and also to the Greeks.” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Acts 26:18)

(Eph.1:7) “In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the **forgiveness** (aphesis/ judicial forgiveness of AOS) **of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace.” (Col.1:13-14)

How you feel about sitting on death row of AOS does not change the fact. **What you believe** about being acquitted from AOS through the gospel of Jesus Christ is what changes the fact (Gal.5:1, 13) [set free in Christ] (2 Cor.5:17).

4. The Greek word for repentance is metanoia (change of mind).

Repentance requires the mentality and not the emotion of the soul. It requires thinking not feeling.

There is a Greek word for regret, remorse, or feeling sorry (metamelomai) (Matt.27:3-5). It is not used with Church Age Believers (CAB)

However, repentance (metanoia) could be a necessary step in salvation or spirituality depending on what you think and not on what you feel.

Example: If you believe that you must believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and be circumcised **in order to be saved (Acts 15:1)**, then you would need to repent (change your mind) to be saved (**Rom.1:16**).

(Acts 15:11) “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, in the same way as they also are.” (Eph.2:8-9)

5. Penitence is not a necessary step in spirituality.

Just as you don't need to feel sorry about your sin to be saved, you don't need to feel sorry for your sin to be spiritual.

The Indwelling of The Holy Spirit is the source of spirituality (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2-3; 1 Cor.3:1-3).

You are spiritual by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17).

- (Gal.5:16) Walk (peripateo / **p.a.impv.2pl**) by the Spirit not the flesh (OSN)
- (Gal.5:18) Be led (ago / p.p.ind.2pl) by the Spirit not by the flesh
- (Gal.5:25) Walk (stoicheo / p.a.subj.1pl) [walk in step] by the Spirit not by the flesh

You are carnal if you walk by the flesh (OSN) (Gal.5:16; 1 Cor.3:1-3; Rom.13:13-14; James 1:14-15).

When you are carnal, you must confess your sin to become spiritual again.

(1 John 1:9) “If (3cc) **we** confess (homologeo / **p.a.subj. 2pl**) our sins, **He is faithful and righteous** to forgive (aphiemi / **a.a.subj 3ps**) [The Cross] us our sins and to cleanse (katharizo / **a.a.subj.3ps**) [The Cross] us from all unrighteousness.” (Luke 15:13, 18)

Note that you do not ask for either forgiveness or cleansing.

Doctrinal principle:

(1 John 1:7b) “And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (katharizo / **p.a.ind.3ps**) us from all sins.”