

REPENTANCE

The first doctrine is repentance. To understand repentance we must understand why we even need repentance. Let's read the first three chapters in Genesis to find the answers.

Now we know:

- God created the world and planted a garden in it called Eden.
- In this garden, He placed Adam and Eve.
- God established a government where Adam and Eve were to rule the Earth.
- He was in charge of everything.
- Their job was to protect and take care of the garden--to have dominion over it.
- Adam was made in God's class--in His image.
- This was the only way God could have fellowship with them.
- God rules over everything and Adam ruled over the Earth.
- They were both rulers--they had this in common. They could fellowship.
- God could talk about the responsibilities of being in charge of everything and Adam could understand what He was talking about, because he was responsible for the Earth.
- One of the animals that God created was the serpent and he was more cunning than any other beast that God had made.
- He conspired with God's enemy, Satan, to take the dominion away from Adam and Eve through their disobedience to God's command.
- Because Eve did not have a correct understanding of God's command, the serpent was able to deceive her into touching and then eating the fruit from the forbidden tree.
- Adam, on the other hand, knew exactly what the Word said, but he chose to disobey.
- God set boundaries for Adam--he was to rule the Earth.
- But Adam wanted more than what God had given him.
- He wanted to be like God--that's why he betrayed God.
- He wanted to go past the boundaries set by God and have what God had.
- It was only after Adam had taken and eaten that their eyes were

opened and at that point in time, they lost their relationship and their fellowship with God.

- Adam broke covenant with God by disobeying Him.
- The consequence for that disobedience was death and Adam lost everything that God had given him.
- Adam knew exactly what God said about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but he chose to disobey.
- That is the sin of mankind--making the wrong choice.
- That is what we need to repent of.

We are all corrupted by the blood of Adam. We are all his descendants and we all have his ways. It is just natural for people to disobey.

Adam made the wrong choice, but Jesus came and He made all the right choices. He only did what God wanted Him to do. He stayed within the boundaries set by God for Him. Jesus is our example. By following Jesus, we choose to make the right choice, too.

Repentance is simply choosing to leave the bad choice behind and begin making the right choices. Living, not as we used to live, but living by the example set by Jesus. It is amending our ways so that whatever we do, we do it God's way and not our way.

Repentance is the first step in our covenant relationship. Once we repent, then we can receive salvation, through the new birth. With the new birth, our spirits are born again.