

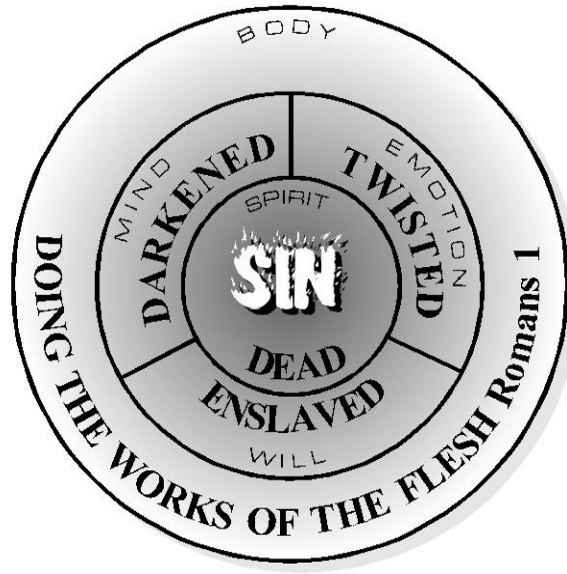
REPENTANCE

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

REPENT

We came to Christ by repentance. Do we need to repent after salvation? Yes! Have you looked for life and fulfillment in things, people, or your performance instead of looking to God for fulfillment? Have you been going your own way ignoring God's right to be God in your life? Maybe you have been rejecting yourself or God. If any of these things are true, REPENTANCE is needed. Pride works against taking such action. And yet, we see throughout Scripture that true repentance is the gateway to wholeness and joy and peace with God. God is "against the proud" (1 Peter 5:5), but always ready to meet the repentant soul with forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration.



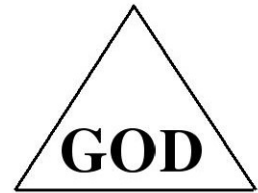
Spirit—Eph. 2:1

Mind—Eph. 4:17-18

Will—Titus 3:3

Emotions—Eph. 4:19

Body—Gal. 5:19-21



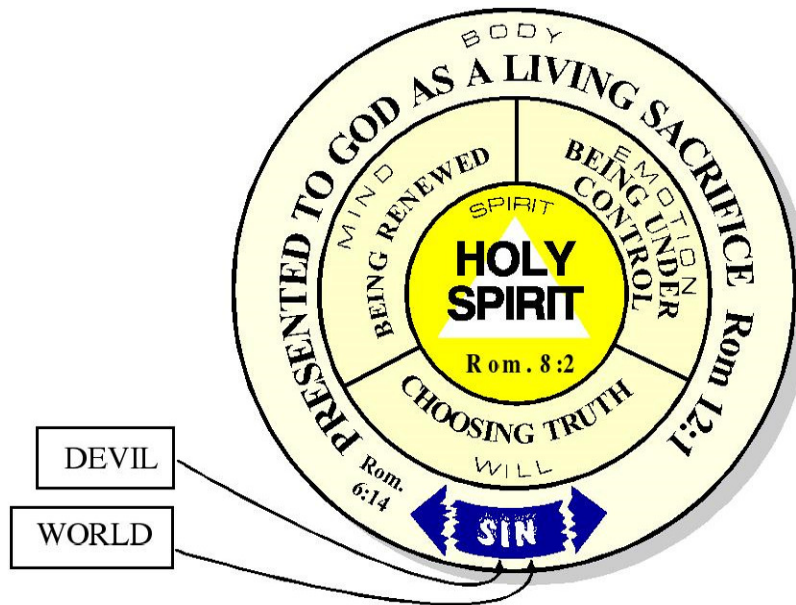
NATURAL MAN: UNREGENERATED

IN THE FLESH & WALKING **AFTER** THE FLESH

1 Corinthians 2:14

160-A

NOTES



CRUCIFIED
Rom. 6:6

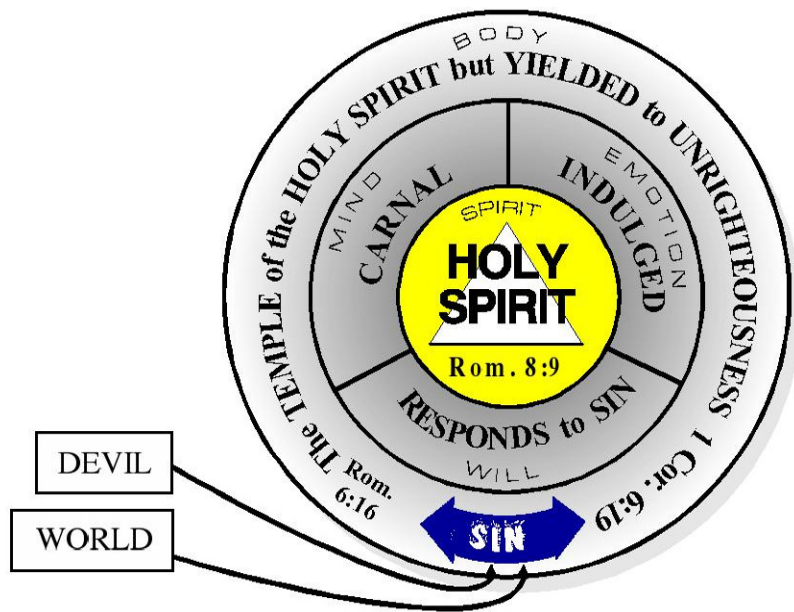
SPIRITUAL MAN: FUNCTIONING SPIRITUALLY:

REGENERATED; **IN** THE SPIRIT & WALKING **AFTER** THE SPIRIT

Rom. 6:12-13; Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:9-10

160-A1

NOTES



CRUCIFIED
Rom. 6:6

SPIRITUAL MAN: **FUNCTIONING CARNALLY:**

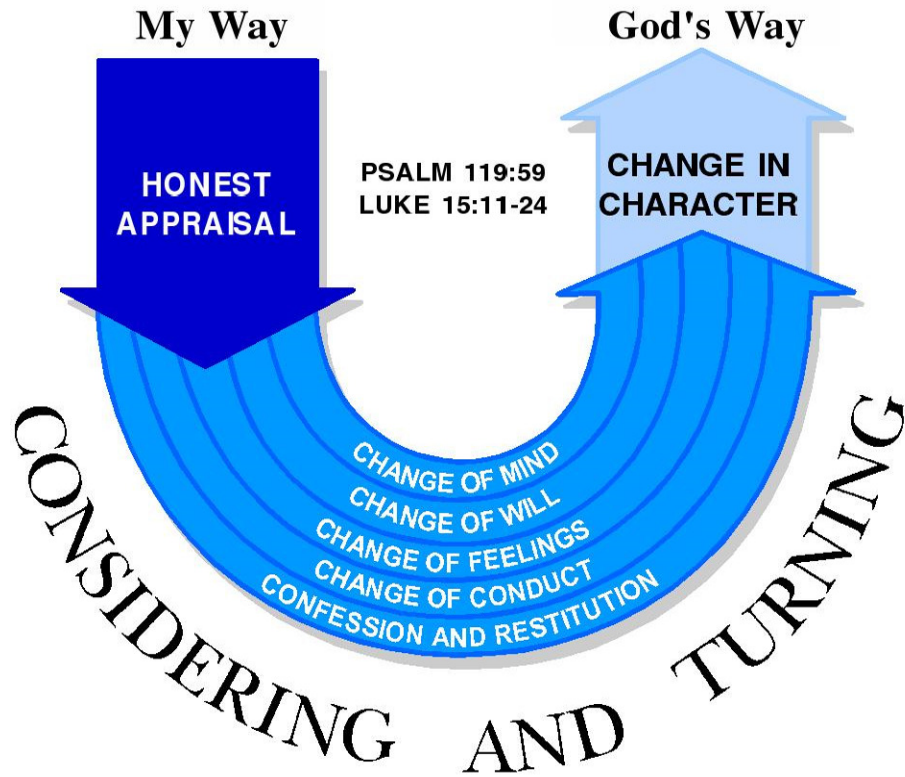
REGENERATED; **IN** THE SPIRIT BUT WALKING **AFTER** THE FLESH

Rom. 7:22-24; 1 Cor. 3:3; 1 Cor. 6:15

160-A2

NOTES

REPENTANCE



160-B

NOTES

CONSIDERING

Considering your way begins with HONEST APPRAISAL.

HONEST APPRAISAL leads to as clear a statement as is possible for you to make, as to *WHAT IS*: that is, what the TRUTH is about your own purposes, motives, methods, and patterns—without the varnish of self-protection, without enhancing or guarding your reputation, and without using devious means to maintain personal objectives.

One difficulty encountered immediately is that of overcoming procrastination. Honest appraisal must be undertaken in obedience to God without waiting for the feelings. Honesty requires *facing the truth*. Often a person may need help in this process.

The following factors are suggested:

1. Pray specifically for God to reveal your “own way” or your self-life.
2. Wait upon God; listening to Him. You may want to record what God reveals.
3. Allow yourself no excuses, rationalizations, or alibis. Do not allow blaming others to stop the process.

The purpose of HONEST APPRAISAL is to bring about in you an attitude of cooperation with the Holy Spirit in which CHANGE OF MIND, CHANGE OF THE WILL, and CHANGE OF FEELING may follow.

TURNING

- ♦ Quit doing what you were doing.
- ♦ Choose to appropriate the life of Christ to empower right decisions.
- ♦ Admit your sin to the Lord and thank Him for forgiveness.
- ♦ Admit your wrong to those you offended and seek their forgiveness.
- ♦ Make restitution when necessary.
- ♦ Walk in the freedom of who you are in Christ.

Note: Forgiveness is covered in detail in the VCL Conference “Extending Forgiveness” and “Seeking Forgiveness” lessons.

160-C

MY OPINION ABOUT SIN

	<i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>	<i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>
AS TO THE NATURE OF SIN	I see my sin as disgusting and detestable. I am contrite and ashamed that I ever desired such a thing or actually ever did it. I see my own sin as hateful and deserving of hell.	Inwardly I harbor the secret opinion that my sin is desirable and “worth it.” I see that it will ruin me, that God will punish me—but I still love it. I may see that it will adversely affect my character; but if it could end in happiness, I would never abandon it.
AS TO SIN'S RELATION TO GOD	I view my sin with God's righteous evaluation. I do not question the severity of the judgment—but heartily agree with it.	I don't see why God threatens my sin with such great judgment & punishment. When deeply convicted I may see it quite as God does, but only in fleeting glimpses.
AS TO THE TENDENCIES OF SIN	I see my sin's destructive tendencies and accept in my own mind the rightness of God's dealings with it. I acknowledge that total abandonment of it is necessary.	I initially cannot grasp that sin's tendencies should lead to eternal death. I may see sin as ruinous to myself and others, in body and soul for time and eternity, and the very opposite of all that is good & lovely—and still rationalize my continuance of it.
AS TO WHAT SIN DESERVES	I have no doubt whatsoever about the justice of God's condemnation of my sin. I see this as a fact of God's character and, therefore, a valid and necessary action on God's part.	I admit in theory that sin deserves eternal death, but do not really believe it. (If I believed it, my unrepentant attitude would be impossible.) My real opinion is different than I think it is. I am self-deceived. 160-D

MY FEELINGS ABOUT SIN

	<i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>	<i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>
TOWARD SIN'S NATURE & RELATION TO GOD	I see my sin as distinct from its consequences and really hate and detest it in my heart—not for what it brings, but for what it is, an insult to my holy God. Deep and profound sorrow crushes me when I'm repentant.	My feelings of regret are centered on my sin's consequences to me. I feel sorry my sin was discovered. But all this is pure selfishness. I really care nothing for what my sin does to God; its nature is unknown to me.
TOWARD SIN'S TENDENCIES	I have a fervent desire to stop what I have been doing. My heart is set on fire to deliver myself and others from the direction, destruction, and ramifications of my sin.	I rationalize my refusal to deal ruthlessly with sin by telling myself that for <i>my</i> action I have special safeguards. Sin will never trap me (I think) because I am too shrewd. I view my own actions as excusable, because I “will never go as far as others have gone.” I feel myself able to walk dangerously close to the edge of the cliff but never fall to my doom. The challenge to do so excites my passions and boosts my ego.
TOWARD WHAT SIN DESERVES	I feel right about what God says my sin deserves. Far from arguing with God's sentence, I am overwhelmed with wonder that God can forgive me.	I fully agree intellectually that God's condemnation is deserved, but my heart continues to argue that my own case is different. My sin should be excluded (and this is supported by my long list of mental reasonings). The rightness of God's judgment produces no <i>feelings</i> of agreement. 160-D1

REVIEW

- Repentance is God's way of bringing us into His family.
- As God's child I can choose to walk after the flesh and sin.
- Every time I turn to sin I need to turn back to God's way by repentance.
- God uses people and circumstances to get my attention, so I will repent and stop doing things my way.
- After repentance I can start making right choices.



NOTES