

**Topic:**  
Seven Signs of  
True Repentance.

## *Seven Signs of True Repentance*

### **How should we respond if the offender doesn't think she has done anything wrong?**

When an offender does not see that she has done anything wrong, the offended party will need to put distance between herself and her offender.

The act of setting the relationship boundaries for the person who hurt us is designed to both protect us from future hurt and promote conviction in the offender's life.

In such cases, the process of regaining trust and restoring a broken relationship will be more difficult. The offended person must commit the situation to the Lord and accept the change of relationship.

In the context of a local Church, unreconciled relationships must be brought to resolution for the preservation of the unity of the Church (Ephesians 4:3). This often requires the involvement of the Church Leadership following the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17.

### **Confirming genuine confession and repentance**

When an offended party works toward reconciliation, the first and most important step is the confirmation of genuine repentance on the part of the offender (Luke 17:3).

“If we can restore to a full and intimate fellowship with ourselves a sinning and unrepentant brother, we reveal not the depth of our love, but its shallowness, for we are doing what is not for his highest good. A forgiveness which bypasses the need for repentance issues not from love but from sentimentality (John R. W. Stott. Confess Your Sins, p35).

### **Seven signs of genuine repentance:**

The offender:

**1. Accepts full responsibility for his actions.** (Instead of: “Since you think I’ve done something wrong...” or “If I have done anything to offend you...”).

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- 2. Accepts accountability from leaders and others.**
- 3. Does not continue in the sin or anything associated with it.**
- 4. Does not have a defensive attitude about his being in the wrong.**
- 5. Does not have a light attitude towards sin.**
- 6. Does not resent doubts about his sincerity-nor the need to demonstrate sincerity.  
(Especially in cases involving repeated offenses)**
- 7. Makes restitution wherever necessary.**

**References: Handout taken from, “Learning to Forgive: A Biblical Study of Forgiveness & Reconciliation”. Available through contacting Millersville Bible Church Office.**