



NO GREATER JOY

Newsletter of **The Church At Cane Creek**, a ministry of the local church.

July 1996

The Folly of Fairness

By the time your children are ten- to twelve years old, they should have developed the wisdom and skills necessary for good parenting. Our twelve-year-old daughter Shoshanna, for several months now, has been demanding that we address an issue that is disturbing to her. She finds this to be the most common malady among the small children whom she baby-sits, as well as among her peers. She says, "Daddy, write and tell them that life is not fair."

There is a universal tendency to want to make life fair. "You had your turn, now it is mine." "You already have two balls and I have none, so you should be fair and share with me." "Daddy gave Johnny one, so Suzy should get one also." We tend to think of legislated fairness as equality, when in fact it is inequality. This is so ingrained in us that we equate fairness with justice. The communist system is built on a conviction of forced fairness. In contrast, the American system of government is based, ideally, on justice.

Pure fairness is as unlikely and as undesirable as making all mountains the same height. It is unnatural, and can only be achieved through forced injustice. When it is a rule handed down by "Big Brother" it will never be carried out with benevolence on the part of the one being stripped of his abundance, nor can it be received with thankfulness on the part of the one expecting legislated equality.

Jesus gave a parable that speaks about fairness and our attitude toward it:



Shoshanna Pearl, 12 years old

*"Matt. 19:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.
2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.
5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.
6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?"*

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh our, they received every man a penny.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?"

The men who had worked all day for the agreed price of one penny recognized it was not fair to pay the same penny to those who had worked only one hour. They began the day expecting only one penny for the full day's labor. They had indeed been treated justly, but not fairly when compared to the others. Twice, the master

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Fairness

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of the vineyard said, "I will pay you what is right." The unfairness of pay is nonetheless called, "right."

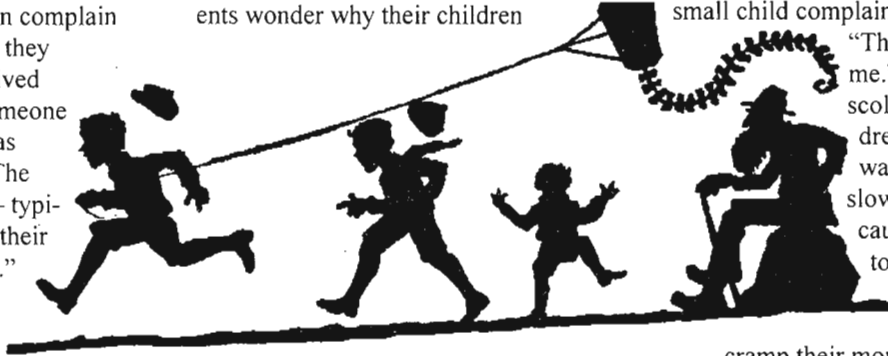
When our children complain of unfairness, it is because they feel they should have received more in respect to what someone else has received, exactly as these men in the parable. The response of the employer – typifying God – was to define their desire for equality as "evil." He vindicates his unequal actions by pointing out that it is lawful for one to do as he pleases with his own possessions. Their heart became evil when they coveted the increase of their neighbor.

When the children complain of inequality they are being covetous, as seen by the fact that they never complain when they are on the receiving end, only when they are left out. If the parents give-in to this complaining, they are rewarding their children's lust.

To cater to this equality syndrome is also to convey a very false concept about life. In the real world what is mine is mine and what is yours is yours. If my neighbor has three cars when I have none, I can expect to walk. If he gives me a ride, I will be thankful, but I do not feel it is his duty to share. If he were forced to share, it would be impossible for me to have gratitude toward him.

Just this summer one of my younger daughters went canoeing with a visiting family of four teenagers. The youngest was a boy of thirteen. His mother, not having confidence that he could survive a spill in the swift water, told him to wear a lifejacket. His three, older, teenage sisters were not so required. On the way to the canoe rental, as they stopped for gas, the boy went inside and called his mother, complaining of the unfairness of his sisters not

having to wear life jackets. The mother relented to his pitiful appeal and told him that since he had to endure the discomfort of a lifejacket, they would have to also. After all, it was only fair. As they were preparing to leave the gas station, he came out gloating over his successful appeal to fairness. And parents wonder why their children



don't like each other!

One of the girls got on the car phone and spoke to her mother about their distaste for wearing life jackets. She again relented and said that none of them had to wear a lifejacket. So the kid got his way after all. His mother obviously felt that he needed the jacket to insure safety, but she was forced to step back from her better judgment based on an assumption of fairness and equality. If he had been my kid, every time he complained I would have put another lifejacket on him until he looked like a giant, orange flower floating down the river. He would have had enough buoyancy that if he had fallen in the river he would never have gotten wet. The next time I told him to wear a lifejacket he would have put it on so fast that those watching would have looked around for a tidal wave.

When the thirteen-year-old boy won the fairness contest over the lifejackets, do you think his sisters and the others present found him endearing? Do your children like each other, Mom?

This assumption that fairness is the "golden rule" seems to be universal. We see it on all sides. I noted an occasion when a mother was about to prevent her older teenage daughter from going with her peers because the

younger sister was not also invited. The mother, finally allowing the older daughter to go, consoled the younger child by promising to take her someplace special to make up for the inequality.

Again, it is common to hear a small child complain to his mother, "They ran off and left me." The mother then scolds the older children, telling them to wait on their younger, slower brother. Does it cause the older boys to like their little brother when he is allowed to

cramp their more aggressive style of play?

This indulgent demand for fairness begins at the earliest age. When Grandma must buy gifts of equal value for each grandchild in order to keep feelings from being hurt, you know you have already cultivated self-centeredness in your children. Trying to keep equal accounts, whether in things, privileges or discipline, is not wise. It trains children to believe they have the right to weigh and balance, to demand equal share, or to veto the good fortune of another. They are turning selfishness into a childhood occupation. Evil covetousness is being rewarded.

Parents are missing one of the greatest opportunities to teach their children to rejoice in the good fortune of another. The men of the parable who worked all day should have rejoiced that those who worked only one hour received as much as they. If they had been the one to work only one hour, they would have rejoiced. Their demand for fairness was pure covetousness. To give-in to that demand is to cultivate your own "Entitlement Program."

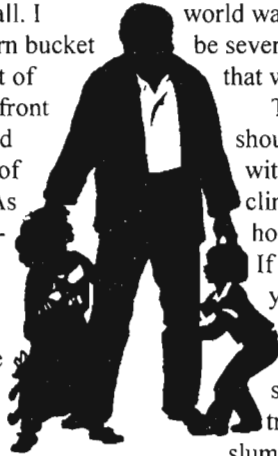
It should never be our intention to show favoritism, but circumstantial inequality is not only just but essential to the very foundations of individuality. Some are naturally tall, while

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Tying ~~Strings~~ Beards

Last week when I was mildly suffering from loss of a wisdom tooth, I drifted down to where some of the saints were playing volley ball. I plopped down into an old torn bucket seat someone had thrown out of their pickup truck. It is now front row seating, far more coveted than the stumps and lengths of fire wood standing on end. As I sat there I tried to look pitiful, occasionally wincing from pain and thrusting my hand to my jaw. But I found the volley ball side line to be a poor place to get sympathy.

Then two kids, children of those playing volley ball, spotting me seated alone. They made a dash to take advantage of me, certainly knowing my vulnerability. I had hoped that they would question me about my recent ordeal. I was all ready to tell them



about the blood and suffering. But they were totally heartless. They continued to laugh and jump around like the world was a wonderful place. It would be several days before I would feel that way again.

They were expectant that I should jump up and provide them with the usual legs on which to climb. They think I am a tree house and my arms are swings. If these growing four- and six-year-olds keep swinging on my arms, I will probably have to buy shirts with longer sleeves. But I was not to be trifled with on this day. I just slumped deeper into the bucket seat, and groaned my misery. They settled down, but instead of going away they began to stroke my beard. Man, that's great solace for a tooth ache.

I became absorbed watching the ball game, when I suddenly realized

that the kids were backing off and laughing at me. They would lean their head to one side, much like an artist trying to study his creation. I notice the little girl approaching with a stem of some wild berries. She was coming toward my beard and her brother was saying, "Yea, that will look good!" I followed her until my eyes crossed about six inches from my nose. She commenced to braid the berries into my beard, while the boy came back with a piece of Styrofoam to do the same. They were having so much fun, now squealing with delight, that I submitted to this lowly degradation until the grounds around the court were completely clean. When I got up to leave, I left a trail of raining debris that looked like the highway trail of a country garbage truck. And the kids were walking along behind me laughing at the stuff I was shedding.

Now you may have more dignity than I do, and you probably don't have a beard long enough to keep a couple of kids busy for twenty minutes. But I will tell you what I do have. I have two little friends. ❁

Fairness

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others are short. Some are gifted in many areas, whereas others appear to be gifted in little. One farmer receives rain while another suffers draught. One is born into a family of opportunity while another is born into social bondage. One gets a promotion while another loses his job. Many run the race, but only one takes first place.

Discerning, premeditated inequality, which is what occurred in the parable, is often most appropriate. The Bible tells us to value the other person above ourselves. That would not be equality. It would be inequality in favor of your neighbor.

Remember, our goal for our children is not to make them happy by immediately gratifying their natural

lusts; we want to build character. Children do not yet have a mature capacity to make wise value judgments. It would not be wise to provoke a child to wrath by deliberately showing preferential treatment. But is equally unwise to seek equality by seeking to avoid inequality where it naturally occurs. For instance, if you are at a garage sale and come across a garment or toy suited to one of your children, it would be most appropriate to buy for the one and not for the other. To deliberately seek equality is to send a wrong signal. The child who receives nothing should be able to rejoice in the good fortune of his brother. He would not feel that his mother loved the other more. He knows that the inequality is purely circumstantial. If one child is invited to participate in an event with his friends, and the other is not, it would be extremely unwise to attempt to make an offering to pacify

the child left behind. It would be fine to take that opportunity for just the two of you to do something together, but not as a bribe for good attitude, nor as a consolation for his losses.

If a child is left out of play because the other children don't like him, it would be further detriment to publicly take his side. He should learn to be likable. He must earn the right to be included in social events. Children will readily isolate a jerk. Protective parents, defending a child's rights, create super jerks. When he doesn't get his share of attention, time, things or whatever, don't cater to his selfishness by becoming gravely sympathetic and sensitive to his feelings. Lighten up and show indifference to his feelings. Briefly and curtly, as you turn to walk away, say, "Stop your whining and find something to do, or I will give you a

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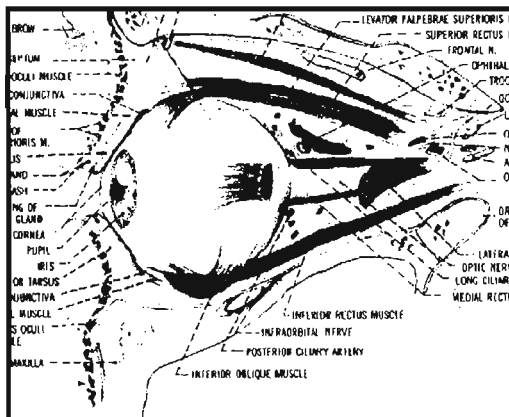
An idea we tabled

Up until recently, our family didn't sit down to the table, we sat down at a continent. My wife bought a perfectly clear table cloth and under it she placed several large world and national maps. We grew fond of quizzing each other on obscure countries now owned by ex-CIA operatives. My boys came to know the rivers and mountain ranges of different countries. One day I came in to find the kids leaning over the map, all looking at the same spot, sounding as if they were competing for first place in a sports announcer's school.

"There he goes across Turkey.

He is now entering Iraq... No! He has turned North. He is entering Iran and making his way across to... No, he has jumped into the

Persian Gulf and is entering Saudi Arabia...." They were following a bug across the world map. I thought it was a most effective homeschool method.



But last week we came to dinner to find the geographical maps replaced with thirteen full color posters of the human body.

Now the Bible says that "no man yet despises his own flesh but cherished it and nourishes it." I guess my wife thought there was no better place to observe the flesh than where we nourish it.

The boys quickly grew tired of observing the urinary track during meal times. One afternoon, while eating a snack, I sat down where the boys usually sit and found I wasn't so hungry after a couple of minutes of observing a bladder blockage. So I moved over one seat and tried to eat a bologna sandwich while looking at a dissection of the liver. The next meal I moved around to the girls side and studied stomach and colon cancers until I developed indigestion. I finally tried my wife's seat and studied the brain until I felt I needed a lobotomy. My position at the end of the table is graced by a ten inch eyeball, complete with all the vessels and muscles. It reminds me of a

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Fairness

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job to take your mind off of it." You might add, "When you get bigger, you will get to go places also."

One caution: We occasionally meet parents or stepparents who clearly do not like one child and favor another. They express their preference in gifts and discipline. The children all know that one is despised and another is preferred. These parents may use what has been said to justify their ongoing vendetta against the rejected child. This kind of stupidity is not born of ignorance but rather of meanness of spirit. Such parents are so blind that they are not likely to discern the difference between not feeding a child's selfishness with designed equality and not feeding

their own selfishness with deliberate preferential treatment. May these parents see the pain they are causing before their rejected child becomes a reject of society.

But if you are the average parent, you readily see the evil in deliberate preferential treatment. On the other hand, you may never have considered that your attempts at fairness were actually unjust and counterproductive in terms of character building. As a result of your renewed understanding, your future responses will be different.

When your child gets knocked down, don't reward his whining of unfairness. Teach him how to get up and walk away with dignity. If the other children run off and leave him, teach him how to organize play that will cause them to want to be a part of his activity. But never make your child the

unwelcomed tagalong of despising peers. When your child digs a well and they take it away from him, teach him to dig a better well in another spot, and God will bless him with better water. When rain falls on his neighbors crops but not his, teach him how to irrigate. When his wages are lower, teach him how to manage his finances. When someone else gets the job, teach him how to start a company that provides better services. If he has less gifts, teach him how to expect nothing and to make little into abundance. Rather than whine for equality, teach him how to give until others are blessed above himself. If Christian principles are not good enough for our two-year-olds, will they be good enough for them when they are twenty? Cultivate a Christian world view when they are young, and when they are old they will not depart from it.



Physician, heal thyself.

Debi has always written the article on Herbs, but she has requested that I, her most recent patient, extol the virtues of her healing skills.

Have you ever experienced the removal of a wisdom tooth, an infected wisdom tooth, and that followed by fever and then a dry socket? It makes you wince to even think about it, doesn't it. Well, I endured the removal of my first wisdom tooth just two weeks ago. It was very large, so large that when I bring it out to show guests, they all believe I am showing them the tooth of an animal. I am keeping it so I can say I still have all my teeth.

The doctor gave me a prescription, but knowing how invasive those commercial drugs can be, I preferred to try the herbs instead. Don't misunderstand me. I will use any modern medical drug or procedure if I deem it wise. But I never let the doctor make that decision alone. I try to be informed enough to weigh the matter.

On the second day when the fever started, with it came aching in my bones, clean down to my toes. Even the hair on my head hurt. Deb

went to the garden and pulled a fresh garlic. She first bruised a clove, by crushing it under her thumb. This is necessary to activate the ingredients which are inert until mixed. She then cut two 1/2 inch, cross grain slices. These she placed on either side of the tooth socket. I kept them

there about one hour and repeated this with fresh garlic about every four hours. In 24 hours the infection was gone.

But the dry socket became apparent by the third day. I have writing to do, Bible studies to teach and the prison ministry, so I didn't want to be under the influence of a powerful pain killer. Deb again

went to the garden and came back with Echinacea root and cut off a thin slice about 1/2 inch long. This she placed beside the socket along with one clove of cloves (the seasoning you put in apple pie).

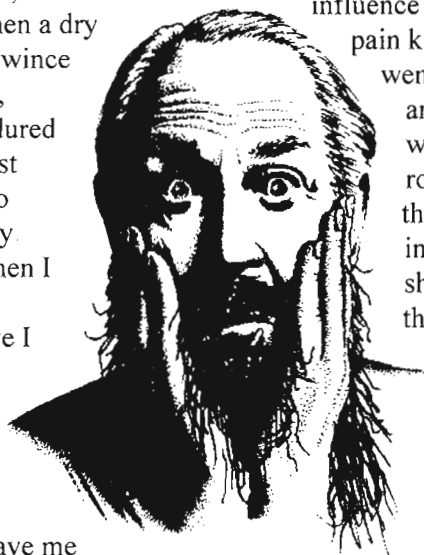
With the sweet smell of cloves, instead of the garlic stench, my family allow me back in the same room with them. For the next two weeks I had to resort to the Echinacea and cloves to lessen the pain.

The Echinacea root leaves your mouth feeling fat, numb and tingly, much like it feels when the dentist's shot is wearing off. If you don't have access to Echinacea, the cloves

alone is usually sufficient. Cloves is all I used after the first couple of days. I would slowly chew on the cloves, wallow it around, until I wore it out and then put another one in my mouth.

The herbs do not completely remove all pain, but they certainly make it bearable. I would estimate that in my case the herbs lessened the pain by 80%. I would forget the pain and continue working my normal pace.

Whole cloves are readily available at any large grocery store.



An idea

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Vietnamese dish I once ate. Did you know that the Superior Rectus M. on the top and the Inferior Rectus muscle on the bottom enables your eye to look up and down? You didn't? How in the world can you read this newsletter then?

I have studied the eyeball until I feel the whole body is an eye. But I moved to the opposite end of the table and found the answer to that verse of Scripture which asks, "If the whole body were an eye where were the hearing?" Simple. It's at the other end of the table. We are trying to find where my wife hid the world maps.

You can order the maps and charts from the address below. Ask them for a catalogue. Have a happy meal. ©

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To Know Him & To Make Him Known

By Rebekah Pearl

I'm not much on farewells, but there's a lot of people out there that have been praying for me, and you all deserve a "goodbye." Just a couple of days ago we got our plane tickets to Papua New Guinea. The date is July 25. Quite a bit later than I had originally intended, but, no doubt, God's perfect timing. Nathan was denied a six month visa, so he will probably only be staying two months. We were disappointed at that, but two months is better than none. Tim and Rachel Stoll will be waiting until after their baby is born to join me there among the Kumboi.

Am I ready? Could I ever be? I once asked an old veteran missionary in God's army what was the most important thing I should know before going to the Field. His skin was like an ancient cellar potato, and his eyes a watery blue, as he turned and gazed at me, measuring my sincerity. Years of wisdom spoke as he answered simply: "The Lord." That is what life on this earth is all about. That is what we were left here for: **To know Him and to make Him known.** I can not do one without the other. Recently, doing a Bible study on the word "glory," I came upon these verses: Jeremiah 9: 23, 24 - "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wis-

dom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."



Pray that I will come to know and understand my Lord more every day. Pray that I will have the wisdom and courage to make Him known.



Into battle I must go
To the front line of the fray
Without fear to face the foe
If you never cease to pray.
I must fight with sword in hand
Boldly I shall carry on
Victory in that heathen land
If you kneel in prayer at home.
Yours the part that turns the tide
You decide how it will end
In your hands I place my life
No you must pray until we win!

No Turning Back

*I have decided to follow Jesus
Any where He goes before
O'er the mountain, thru the valley
Hand in hand with Christ my Lord.*

*Though none go with me,
I will follow
I shall never be alone
He has promised he'll be with me
When I'm far away from home.*

*The world behind me,
The cross before me
A true disciple I would be
And if death is where He's leading
"No turning back" is what I'll sing.*

*No turning back for any reason
I'm advancing on my knees
I have decided to follow Jesus
Right on through Eternity!*

You received this monthly newsletter from *The Church At Cane Creek*, a ministry of a Bible believing, missionary minded, local Church.

Michael and Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up A Child*, developed this newsletter in response to the many letters and questions on training children. You got on our mailing list by ordering one of our books. You will continue to receive this free newsletter as long as we are able to send it, or until you request to be removed from our mailing list. We are thankful when someone asks that their name be removed. It saves us money and time, and makes room for someone else who is interested.

The Pearls do not receive any remuneration from this ministry or from the sale of books. All money goes to the production of more books and newsletters or to the support of missionaries. Many of you have sent extra gifts to pay for the newsletter. It has been a great blessing. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible.

If you do not find time to read this newsletter or if you do not wish to receive it, please drop us a note and let us know. We will remove your name from our mailing list. Otherwise you may continue to receive this publication every month for the next ten years, or until the Saints are raptured. Thank you. *

T. J. Slayman, a young man from our church is now in Laos. He is living in the capitol city, teaching English in a school at night and learning the national language during the day. He is not paid to teach, but it provides a reason for him to be in the country learning the language and culture. Can you guess what reader he will be using to teach "The King's English?" None other than the Authorized Holy Bible.

Can you identify the parts of speech in this sentence? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." These very simple sentences will be read, analyzed, memorized, and discussed in detail by Buddhist youth who have never heard the name of Christ. "Who is this Word? When was the beginning? If he was with God from the beginning and he made all things, is he not God? If he made all things is he not the only God? What is this God like?"

Wouldn't you love to teach English from a King James Bible in a country that persecutes Christians? PRAY. It would be like owning a well of fresh, cool, water in the deserts of Ethiopia. Pray for T.J. Slayman. He will be needing about \$800.00 each month for living expenses.

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Selection from unpublished book, *By Divine Design*, By Michael Pearl

Reconciliation

Can anything be done about it, or is it too late? Is reconciliation still possible? For reconciliation to occur, we must acknowledge that we are the offending party. We have been out of step with the program. Our disinterest must end. To be indifferent is not the same as being neutral. Indifference in a relationship is an insult, a statement of how little we value the other person. God deserves our supreme attention and energies because of the value of His contribution to those things that are of value. God values and cares for all things according to their worth. If we do not value God and the things He values, we do not value what we ought. If we eat, breathe, take up space, and don't live for a cause higher than our own pleasure, we are in opposition to God.

Goodness of spirit: Further, if we would be reconciled to God, we must deeply desire goodness of spirit and deed. More than we anticipate our daily food, we must come to continually desire holiness of temperament and action. The Bible says we are to "*thirst and hunger after righteousness.*" We must reverse all forms of resistance to God and become active seekers of His will. To seek God and desire His holiness is not an act of reclamation. It is not the price tag of salvation. It is not the transformation of the character into a worthy state. It is to recognize our need and to desire God for who He is, to desire Him for His nature and His government.

The thought patterns that resulted in distrust of our Creator must be swept away by the light of truth. Where there is not abso-

lute trust there can be no respect, and certainly no commitment. To trust God is to turn to Him in confidence. To recognize our moral disease and turn to God as the cure is called "repentance." Jesus said, "*except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish Luke 13:3.*"

The repentance God requires for reconciliation is "*repentance toward God (Acts 20:21).*" The direction and subject of the turn are defined as *toward God*. There are other kinds of repentances in the Scripture, but the one required for reconciliation has God as the focal point of our turn. Repentance toward God is a refocusing of our life to a new source, a reversal of our concept as to the very purpose for existence. It is an undoing of Adam's decision to live independently of his Maker.

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