

## The Culture of the Kingdom- Repentance Culture

Kingdom Culture is High Cost, High Reward culture. Therefore, it offers eternal and valuable benefits.

World culture is low cost, short-term reward culture. Therefore, it has tragic long-term consequences.

### Proverbs 28:13

<sup>13</sup> He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

Repentance is confessing and forsaking sin.

Conceals from who? Confesses them to who? Finds compassion from who? Both God and man.

Compassion is released through repentance, which leads to reconciliation, and ultimately, unity!

What keeps us from walking in this practice, and building our culture around it?

The enemy of Repentance Culture has a name, and it is Self-Justification.

Self-justification is the inner voice that justifies a sinner in his sin and excuses him from responsibility for his actions.

### Jeremiah 17:9

<sup>9</sup> "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

Self-justification is at the root of the world's cheap alternative to repentance: Apology Extraction culture.

Demanding apologies for perceived wrongs- reparations is an expensive apology- we guarantee we will repent!

At the beginning of life we do not reconcile ourselves to the fact of sin. We take a rational view of life and say that a man by controlling his instincts, and by educating himself, can produce a life which will slowly evolve into the life of God. But as we go on, we find the presence of something which we have not taken into consideration, viz., sin, and it upsets all our calculations. Sin has made the basis of things wild and not rational. We have to recognize that sin is a fact, not a defect; sin is red-handed mutiny against God. Either God or sin must die in my life. -Oswald Chambers

Self-justification is the unconscious choice that God will die out in my life rather than the influence of sin.

Jesus often compared human nature to a tree, which has 3 essential parts: Root, shoot, and fruit.

The root is the heart of man, the shoot (the trunk and branches) is the life with all its expressions, and the fruit is that which is borne out from the life to feed others.

### Matthew 12:33

<sup>33</sup> "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

### Luke 8:15

<sup>15</sup> But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Luke 13:7-9 <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup> And he answered and said to him, 'Let it

alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; <sup>9</sup> and if it bears fruit next year, *fine*; but if not, cut it down.”

A bad tree is only made good by digging around and fertilizing at the root, applying the blood of Christ in repentance. Blood meal- high nitrogen- supplements photosynthesis- chlorotic- cannot produce chlorophyl

The heart that does that will grow in goodness and honesty, receiving the Word of God and bearing abundant good fruit.

The digging around sounds something like this:

#### **Psalm 139:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

If we are not engaging with God like this and practicing repentance, it is guaranteed that my walk with God is floundering, and human relationships around me are in a state of disintegration.

#### **1 John 4:20**

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

#### **Matthew 5:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.