

Two verses later, Peter calls his audience to repent. He makes their sin (crucifying Jesus, the Messiah) very clear.

Stephen

*“Which of the prophets have not your fathers **persecuted?** and they have **slain** them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the **betrayers and murderers.**”* (Acts 7:52)

Likewise, Stephen clearly states their sins in his final sermon. Persecutors, betray-ers and murderers of the prophets and Jesus.

Jesus

*“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed **adultery** with her already in his heart.”*
(Matthew 5:28)

Jesus defined the sin of adultery even more strictly than the Law’s definition. In another place he told the woman caught in adultery that she should go and sin no more. Obviously, adultery was clearly defined as sin.

*“She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: **go, and sin no more.**”* (John 8:11)

Sin Has Been Re-Defined!

Sin has been re-defined, not by God, but by Satan, the god of this world. The devil has deceived people (sadly even

those called by the Name of Jesus in some cases) into down-playing sin or blatantly denying that things that God calls sin are in fact sin.

Instead of “*calling sinners to repentance*”, modern Christians attempt to woo people into church with the promise of an “abundant life”. Instead of telling people that Jesus died on the Cross for their sins, that He was buried, and that He rose from the dead on the third day in order to save us from our sins; we tell people that “God has a perfect plan for their lives”.

Conclusion

We must decide that God has defined sin and that evangelism requires us to call “*sinners to repentance.*” If we, as God’s children, cannot define sin, how can we call people to repent?

If we, as God’s people, are un-willing to state that certain behaviors are sin, how will they know that what they are doing is sinful?

If we, as God’s people, avoid discussions of sin in an effort to “judge not”, who will warn them of the judgment to come?

God expects us to call “*sinners to repentance*”!



By: Robert Dallmann

*“I came not to call the righteous, **but sinners to repentance.**”*
(Luke 5:32)
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As Christians, we are taught that we should be like Jesus. We often hear sermons about being more Christ-like. **RIGHTFULLY SO!**

As we can see from the verse above, Jesus came to call “*sinners to repentance*”. Since we are supposed to be like Jesus, we too are expected to call “*sinners to repentance*”.

Repentance is a theme throughout the entire Bible. Repentance is consistently preached in the New Testament.



## HOW CAN WE CALL SINNERS TO REPENTANCE?

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John the Baptist

*“And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2)*

Jesus

*“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)*

The Twelve

*“And they went out, and preached that men should **repent**.” (Mark 6:12)*

Peter

*“**Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)*

Paul

*“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**.” (Acts 17:30)*

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### The Problem!

It seems very clear that God’s people are expected to offer **repentance** to sinners. If we do not call unbelievers to **repent**, we are allowing them to continue in their

condemnation and ultimately be sent to an eternal punishment in hell.

Herein lies the problem. In order to call “sinners to repent”, we must be able to define “sin”.

### Defining Sin Is A Problem Today!

In days gone by, sin was understood by everyone. The town drunk was known and derided by most. Sexual promiscuity was looked down upon and people avoided being associated with those who were morally “loose”. Children never swore in public, never in front of adults or they were punished.

Are we saying that it is right or acceptable to treat sinners poorly? **Absolutely NOT!**

What we are saying is that in times past, sin did not need very much defining. Calling “sinners to repentance” did not require a debate or discussion about “what sin is”, it was simply understood. Calling sinners to repentance simply involved providing the remedy for sin (the Gospel of Jesus Christ)!

In society today, sin is not well defined and in most cases is rejected or denied as even existing. Yes, people will say that truly heinous

actions are evil or wicked; however, God does not limit wickedness to only those atrocities.

To further exacerbate the problem, many Christians have embraced much lighter standards when it comes to defining sin. This is a very sad situation, since God is the only one with the right to define what is sin.

### Our Sin Nature

Most Christians understand that because of original sin, we are all born in sin. We realize that Jesus died on the Cross because our entire nature is sinful. We can even go so far as to be aware that everything that we do, that is not done in faith, is sin (see Romans 14:23).

Is that what we are supposed to call “sinners to repentance” from? It seems that examples from the Bible spell it out in a way that is much easier to understand.

### Peter

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, **whom ye have crucified**, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)*