

LOVING GOD

Part three: David — Love is Being Able to Say You are Sorry

The 1970's #1 bestseller **Love Story** by Erich Segal and follow up movie, impacted a generation on life, love and death. The most famous line "love means never having to say you're sorry" was picked up by a young New Zealand woman Kim Grove, who started writing love notes to her future husband (Robert Casali) with a little sketch saying "love is...being able to say you are sorry". This love note was first published on February 9th 1972 and has been published internationally in the series of "Love is..." cartoons ever since.

Who do you think is right ... Erich Segal—"love means never having to say you're sorry" or Kim Grove—"love is ... being able to say you are sorry"?

Why is sorry such a hard word to say?

Is saying "sorry" enough?

What do you think is the difference between sorry and repentance?

Case Study on Repentance

Read 2 Samuel 11 & 12 and list the sins David committed

Now read Psalm 51 and Luke 15:11-31

Discuss the contrasts between the three readings.

You may like to explore why confession usually comes only after being "caught out" or in a desperate situation. Why? Is confession in those circumstances genuine?

LOVE IS BEING ABLE TO SAY YOU ARE SORRY – Psalm 51

Have mercy on me God - a recognition that there is nothing you can say or do. It is impossible to undo what has been done!

According to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion - Repentance begins with God's unfailing love! Focus on the character of God.

Against you, only you I have sinned - While David's "sins" were many he recognised that the 'SIN' was a breach of relationship with God. Focus on the relationship and not on the misdeeds.

Why is it that people prefer to be "right" or deny their "wrong" rather than be in a right relationship?

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts - true love speaks the truth to YOURSELF!

Create in me a clean heart - Change starts from the inside out. Stop trying to change others. Stop trying to change yourself. Ask God to create in you a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways - While the "wrong" David did could never be undone he could however, help guide others on the "right" path. True repentance always has an element of restoration that is the evidence of a changed heart.

A broken and contrite heart you will not despise - Humility

LOVE IS . . .

Love is . . . Recognising the pain and brokenness of a relationship

Love is . . . Being **able** to say you are sorry

Love is . . . Telling the truth to yourself.

Love is . . . Being changed from the inside out

Love is . . . Humility

This is how we love God

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