

## The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way – Chapter 6

1. At the head of the chapter we're given a snippet from a Charles Wesley hymn:

Now incline me to repent!  
Let me now my fall lament!  
Now my foul revolt deplore!  
Weep, believe, and sin no more!

- a. What do you think of this language? How does it make you feel?
  - b. Why does Wesley use such strong language? The language of "revolt" to talk about our sin is challenging in our individualistic age. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using it?
2. The authors turn to a line from another Wesley hymn, one we still sing with some regularity: "He breaks the power of cancelled sin."
    - a. There are two levels of action here – "breaking" and "cancelling." What does it mean to say sin is "cancelled?" How does "cancelled sin" still have power? What does it mean to break that power?
    - b. The previous hymn is part of a prayer, a request for God to act in our lives. This line simply describes the ongoing work of Jesus. In what ways have you experienced this "breaking" of the "power of cancelled sin" in your life?
    - c. If this hymn states a *fact* about what Jesus does, what can and should we do in light of this fact?
  3. The authors say, "Repentance means a change of life. When we repent, we recognize that the way we've been going isn't the right way. This involves the heart, but it also involves the mind."
    - a. In what ways does repentance involve the heart?
    - b. In what ways does repentance involve the mind?
    - c. How have you experienced both of these aspects of repentance?
    - d. What are the consequences of NOT experiencing both these aspects?
  4. The authors talk about three ways sin is a problem.
    - a. Which of these ways were you most aware of before you read this lesson?

- b. Which of these ways have Christians in our age been most blind to?
  - c. Why does sin cause “blurry vision,” not just towards sin itself, but towards everything else?
  - d. Why is it that we can often see the sin of others so clearly but are blind to our own?
  - e. What would church life look like if (1) we were more aware of our own sin, and (2) took sin more seriously?
  - f. How does continued sin make us less aware of sin? How can we overcome this problem?
5. Jesus came to deal with our sin problem. He does at least two things in this regard. First, he identifies with sinners and takes our sin upon himself, dying on the cross for us. Second, through his teaching he shows us our sin and helps us deal with it.
- a. Keeping the authors’ optical analogy in mind, how is sin a problem for us – and not just an offense to a holy God?
  - b. Why is Jesus’ identification and with and death for sinners important? How does it address our sin problem?
  - c. Why are we prone to settle for forgiveness alone (forgiveness is a good thing!) and not go on for the MORE Jesus offers us, the actual deliverance from sin?