

NEWS AND VIEWS
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***“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”***

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Tell him you're sorry!! I could tell immediately that the little boy was not sorry. Something about his attitude gave it away. His mother was giving him instruction about the right thing to do after he had done the wrong thing. Standing in the checkout line at the convenience store, the little boy was demanding (not pleading as so many children are apt to do...), that his mama buy him some candy which always seems to be convenient at any old convenience store counter. The temptation to “act out” (as so many moms and dads describe rebellion these days) was too much for the little felon...I mean fella. He screamed mercilessly at the one who had no doubt suffered great sacrifice on his behalf even before he was born. He began to scream *I hate you! I hate you, I hate you!* while he seized all the candy his angry little hands could grab, flinging the packages all around the store. One of these packages hit me on the leg. A pack of M&Ms I believe it was. Thus the command came from the mother for the son to tell me he was sorry. But I don't really think he was sorry. The mother told the little boy again...and again...and again...*Tell him you're sorry.* But the boy never said a word. So the mother began to tell me *she* was sorry. She related that her little boy had some anger issues. *Really?* And she began to pick up the cast about candy and place it back in the shelves. He never said he was sorry. He never picked up the candy. As she went to the door she held it open for him to come outside with her. But he didn't want to go. He wasn't ready. He didn't have his candy. I watched with amazement as she began to count to three...then to five. Then she did a recount. He seemed oblivious to what she wanted him to do. He left when he was ready to go. And I stood amazed at the manifestation of the sin of man in the heart of a child. It was truly sin on display...and it appeared to control the one who should have had the authority. After the boy walked out the door, the mom stuck her head back inside to tell me he was sorry...but he never said a word...and I don't really think he was sorry.

Consider the following passage of scripture: *For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2 Corinthians 7:10)*

Could it be that so many people who profess to be Christians, those who have made a “profession of faith” that have been led in a “sinner's prayer of repentance” never really told God they were sorry? Could it be that they have only repeated someone else's words, not really understanding the nature of their sin and the need for their repentance? Might it be that they still have some “anger issues” with God over some area of disappointment over what they wanted and thought they deserved? Could it be that many people who prayed to receive Christ never received Christ because they never really talked to God at all and told Him they were sorry?

God knows if we are sorry. I cannot get by with someone else telling God I'm sorry. God will have to hear me say that to Him. He will have to hear my heart. I will have the desire to speak personally to Him. When is the last time you have considered this thought...your sin and my sin have grieved the heart of the Most High and Holy God. But the good news is once we understand that this sin has grieved the heart of God and brings us sorrow...there is the door of repentance. And we can come back to God...and even pick up our strewn and disordered lives and follow Him.

My prayer is that the mother of that son begins to realize her authoritative position under the authority of God...and begin to discipline her child so that he may understand that only God is the source of true authority...and godly sorrow can lead to repentance.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam