

Is It Okay To Sin If We Are Planning On Repenting Because We Are Under Grace?

In one of my Bible studies recently, my student was talking about how his wife wasn't treating him right and how he was thinking of divorcing her (not for fornication). When I explained to him how that would be a sin (Matt 5:32 "... **whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery**"), he said yes, but "I can repent later; we are under grace."

This reminds me of a big reason Martin Luther broke with the Catholic Church centuries ago – the selling of indulgences. They falsely thought the priest had the right to absolve sin. And for a price the priest was willing to forgive the sin even before the sin was committed. If you pay us a certain amount of money, we will give you the right to go out and commit adultery against your wife.

A lot of believers think like this – they don't understand the nature of true repentance:

- a change of mind leading to a change of action Matt 21:28-29 "... **A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he **repented**, and went.**"
- and such were some of you I Cor 6:9-11 "**Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And **such were some of you**: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**"

Repentance is not something a man can do before he sins, because if he could repent before hand, then he wouldn't commit the sin to begin with.

And true repentance is always necessary to forgiveness:

<https://bibledebates.wordpress.com/2019/02/06/god-never-forgives-sin-without-repentance/>

We should never sin just because one can get forgiveness later – Rom 6:1-2 "...**Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**"

We should never sin just because we are under grace – Rom 6:15 "**What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**"

And my student here didn't want to understand that repenting of divorcing your wife demands reconciliation (I Cor 7:10-11).