

Solemn Assembly Preparation from Prince Street Church
Service of Repentance Q & A Sheet

Q: What is the Scriptural basis for this process?

A: The concept of the Lord of the Church, Jesus, calling His people to repentance runs throughout the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. But the primary basis for this process comes from the book of Revelation. In chapters 2 and 3, the Lord writes letters to seven churches. Although these churches are made up of a collection of individuals, Jesus writes to them as one unit. In each letter, Jesus shares things He commends, things that are sinful, a call to repentance, and a warning of what would happen if the church refused to repent. Essentially, we have been asking the Lord of the Church, Jesus, to show us what His letter to us would be.

Q: Who made the decision to do this?

A: At each step of the process, the Board was unanimous in every decision that has been made.

Q: Who was involved in the process?

A: All Board and staff members and their spouses were asked to participate. We also specifically invited all ministry staff personnel. We also invited everyone in the congregation to join us for this process. Approximately 30 people participated in the seminar and retreat.

Q: Why can't we just let the past be the past?

A: The Lord of the Church, Jesus, doesn't just forget corporate sin. This is why He disciplined Israel with 40 years of wilderness wandering and 70 years of exile. He offers to forgive, but only if His people come to Him in repentance. Until that happens, sin, and its consequences remain. He forgives us individually when we repent individually, but corporate forgiveness requires corporate repentance.

Q: Why do we have to do this together?

A: The Lord of the Church, Jesus, looks at Prince Street Church as one body. When one sins, it impacts all of us. That's why all of us must repent together.

Q: What's going to happen at the Service of Repentance?

A: We'll begin by celebrating seasons of fruitful ministry and all that Christ has done in our midst by His grace. We'll conclude the service by rededicating ourselves to being the body of Christ. But the majority of the service will include a series of people repenting of sin on behalf of pastors, their wives, lay leaders, and the congregation.

Q: How long will the Service of Repentance take?

A: None of us knows, exactly. We want to get this right. We want to be sure that we have repented of everything the Lord of the Church, Jesus, is calling for us to confess. Therefore, we expect the service to take significantly longer than our normal worship services.

Q: Will ministry for children be provided?

A: Yes. We are planning to provide children's ministries for infants-5th grade.

Q: Who will be coming to this service?

A: We would like everyone who is a part of Prince Street Church to be part of this service. We have also sent letters of invitation to more than 100 people who we believe may have experienced hurt during their time of being part of Prince Street Church.

Q: What will I be expected to do?

A: The congregation will join together in singing, greeting each other, praying, Scripture and unison readings, and Holy Communion. We will also provide opportunity for each person who desires to do so to hammer a nail into a large wooden cross symbolizing that we find healing in the cross of Christ. But rest assured that no one will be expected to speak who does not wish to do so.

Q: What can I do between now and June 1st?

A: Please join us in praying. Our enemy, Satan, will do everything he can to discourage and divide us. But God's power is greater than anything our enemy can place in our way. If we will keep our eyes fixed on the Lord of the Church, Jesus, we will find healing for Prince Street Church.¹

¹ http://www.princestreetchurch.com/files/Microsoft_Word_-_Repentance_Service_Q_A