



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 15 – of Repentance

Loving and gracious God,

We ask you to empower all who preach your good news to call people not only to faith in Jesus Christ, but also to repentance. We praise you that this repentance, along with faith, is your gift at the very heart of your gospel message.

Lord God, as you renew the believer's heart, you open our eyes to see sin for the danger it is and give us the strength to turn from it. We recognize, Lord, that you clearly show your children how sin conflicts entirely with your holy nature and righteous law. You help us grasp the ugliness of our sin and how offensive it is to you, our God.

Loving and Gracious God, thank you, that as we contemplate the mercy offered in Jesus, you cause us to grieve our sinful actions. You bring us to hate our sin as you hate it. You give us the grace to turn away from our sins and back to you, our Holy, merciful God. Lord God, we are thankful that you create within us a desire to live according to all your commandments.

We know, Lord God, that this repentance in itself can never earn us salvation. We know that repentance does not satisfy the penalty for our sins or secure our pardon. Lord, we acknowledge that forgiveness and pardon come solely through Christ's sinless life and death on the cross, granted by your free grace. Yet, Holy God, we are also aware that without repentance, we cannot expect to receive pardon. Lead us into this repentance and help us walk in it faithfully every day.

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that every sin, no matter how minor, deserves your judgment and the consequence of eternal separation from you. Yet we rejoice that no sin is so great that upon repentance and faith in Christ, we will be excluded from the fullness of your grace, mercy, and life.

Lord, we praise you for showing us our need for repentance at the beginning of our Christian walk, revealing both our general sinfulness and our specific, particular sins. We ask you to continue leading us day by day to repent of that same sinfulness and our daily specific sins.

Lord, we thank you that when we confess our sins to you privately and turn from them in repentance, we are assured of mercy and pardon through Christ. However, Lord, for anyone who harms the reputation of a brother or sister in Christ or your Church, open our hearts to feel sorrow for that offense. Draw us to private or public confession where appropriate, and to declare our repentance to those we have offended.

And Lord, in that repentance, enable the offended party to offer reconciliation, so that relationships may be restored and the genuine love of Christ may flourish between us.

For the sake of Jesus Christ,

Amen