I'M SORRY

Some folks do a lot of apologizing. That’s because they do a lot of things that are wrong. Then when they see there the consequences for their misdeeds, they apologize. The reason they apologize, is they think that is going to make their misdeeds go away. Such is not the case!

I realize my take on forgiveness is different from a lot of folks. I believe the Bible teaches that in order for a person to forgive, they must repent and ask forgiveness. Others think we should just go ahead and forgive them anyway. I think that impossible!

I have known folks that are quick to do wrong, and just as quick to apologize, then find fault with people who have heard it all before, and not willing act as quickly as the offender would like.

If a person apologizes a lot, generally they do not mean it. “I'm sorry, I will never do it again,” they say, in hopes of getting quick agreement. Seldom do they live up to the promise.

There is more to repentance than an apology. When Jonah was told to go to Ninevah and preach to them, he rebelled and went the opposite direction. After his experience in the belly of the fish, he decided he made a mistake and went. In other words, he changed his mind as well as his actions. That is repentance! “So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.” (Jonah 3:3)

Some have the idea that we MUST forgive everyone their sins to be a Christian, whether or not they have asked. Forgiveness is a two-way street, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” (1 John 1:9) So we must assume the opposite is true, if one does not confess, he cannot be forgiven. Just saying “I'm sorry does not mean a person has repented. He must also change his actions.