

There's A LOT of talk going around about revival and repentance. Yet calls for these great things are often given in the ambiguous sense, as if expecting merely an invisible, supernatural force to bring about undefined "revival." Not to denigrate God's mysterious and invisible hand in revival, we as believers also have to do something in our own lives for this to happen, which is turning to sincerely seek His face. Here are 10 things WE can do to repent, and turn around the Body of Messiah.

1: End the illicit divorces: According to our God and Savior, man and woman become one flesh for life, and to remarry is gravely immoral and called adultery. Actually respecting this in our own lives and congregations is a must to sincerely seek faithfulness to God. Let's treat our marriages as lifelong covenants, and let congregations expect their members to treat them the same way. One could argue that divorce and remarriage is the greatest sin of the modern Body of Messiah, and is measurably a societal disaster. Our marriages should be preserved and restored according to God's will.

2: Get off of the contraception: At this point in history the large majority of believers use contraception. In doing so they practice what the bulk of the Church for two thousand years considered immoral, make their future disappear along with their children, practice what is obviously unnatural and imbibe chemicals which are designed with abortifacient qualities. A people which does this repeatedly and shamelessly has LITTLE credibility as a light to the world. It only seems like selfish hypocrites. Let us respect life, morality and natural law, get off of the abortifacients, and accept the children Adonai gives us. He will bless us with a future full of children.

3: Put on some clothes: If the bulk of believers were running around plastered, swearing like sailors and getting into fistfights, you could honestly expect our ministers to say something about it. They might even try to end it swiftly. Yet when the bulk of believers (and I'm not talking about Episcopalians here) run around half naked and show no respect for modesty you can expect our ministers to say little or nothing. They will do little or nothing as well. Yet modesty is a holy teaching. Modesty of apparel and modesty of the spirit should be a part of our lives since God tells us it should be. Not only does covering up, especially for women, help people avoid temptation, it is also a spiritual illustration of the garments that Adonai gives us, an illustration of the covering for sin He provides and is beautiful on top of that. Let respecting modesty be a part of our turning around.

By the way, let me just stop here and point out, that if we did ONLY the three points above (and of course we should do more than that) it would be a true revolution; I mean a massive revolution in our lives. It would be a turning around on a large scale, a meteor-strike of righteousness just to do those three acts of repentance – end the illicit divorces, get off of the contraception and put on some clothes!)

4: Start setting standards: A lot of the dissolution around us (and the dissolution of society has been almost synonymous with the dissolution of the Body of Messiah) has stemmed from a rather anarchistic attitude from believers that we should not have or enforce standards. Yet this is a false and poisonous attitude. We SHOULD have and enforce them, and the Bible in some instances specifically instructs it. Common sense instructs it in other instances. Let our leaders, from our husbands to our pastors, start setting behavioral standards for their communities. Standards of holy behavior, speech, dress and more. The “world” may have little or no standards in these regards, but OUR world, our holy communities, do not have to slide along with the world. We can have standards any day that we humble ourselves and turn to follow Elohim.

5: End the petty rebellion: This element to repentance and revival pretty much goes along with the one above. The popular and rebellious attitude that we should not have standards or enforce them in an organized way has been a true weapon of mass destruction to the Body of Messiah. And some people even believe it is biblical. Yet rebellion is not biblical, and standards are taught many times throughout scripture, including in the New Covenant. We are told to obey God, the congregation is taught to hold and enforce standards, the congregation is taught to cut off disobedience members as well as false teachers. Common wisdom would add a few elements to the list of standards as well. Either way, one need only crack open the Holy Scripture to see very quickly how ungodly this rebellious attitude is. Let us respect our community leaders, our husbands and pastors, as they set holy standards for the children of God.

6: Respect biblical gender roles: You would think that the divine Word of God would get some respect from believers, but one of the reasons we have such great need for repentance and revival is that time and time again we give it virtually no respect. I mean, none. One big area of disrespect is in gender roles that Adonai teaches us; our Lord instructs us about male headship in the home, the male role in the congregation, the submissive role of the woman, as well as the limitations on her role in the congregation. He furthermore teaches women to be homemakers and instructs all of us against androgyny. It is VERY difficult to see how a *Kahol* which complains bitterly about the current world’s gender-bending has any reason to complain, when it ignores most or all of divinely assigned gender roles, and mocks both God and nature. Let us repent, brethren, and find joy in these divinely assigned roles. For what has Adonai given us, which is not good?

7: Restore communalism: We have it on the record from the book of Acts, and of course from external sources, that many early believers practiced communalism. While this may not be a commandment so to speak, it was obviously a very important part of many faithful lives and seemed natural to the early born-again. Today, monastics in the historical church and small sects here and there still practice it. It seems especially important to restore this today for a few reasons. Firstly, if the Church is going to repent and start teaching the truth, there’s a good chance many souls will walk out the door. Yet if this

happens how will ministers be able to support themselves in their calling? One way is communalism, which requires much less funds than individual living. Secondly, communalism can help entrench the attitude that we are not bound to the material world, our houses, our cars, our toys, our vacations. It is spiritual in the sense that a fast is spiritual, along with several other ways. On top of that, it saves financial resources. To ignore communalism may not be a sin, but I believe the restoration of communalism will be a part of our larger repentance.

8: Practice a common sense separation of the sexes: If someone told you that they wanted to quit smoking crack, yet were always hanging around drug dealers and hanging around the places drug dealers go, would you believe them that they really wanted to quit? I would think either they didn't want to quit smoking crack or they were lacking in simple common sense. In a similar way, this is what the modern *Kahol* looks like in claiming it wants its members, especially children, to lead moral lives. It tells them to live morally, then tragically does not give them tools to help them along. In some respects, even facilitates them in immorality. Yet a separation of the sexes in various spheres of life can help the believer who wants to avoid immorality, just like a separation from drug dealers can help our crack addict avoid crack. It's just common sense. Whether at home, in the congregation, in housing arrangements or at school separation by sexes assisted faithful believers in leading moral lives for countless years. A separation of the sexes ALSO helps strengthen gender roles and avoid androgyny, which are both godly pursuits. If we truly want repentance then let's use a tool that will graciously help us along -- the simple separation of the sexes.

9: Put a filter on the media tap: In a similar way to the above point, believers can assist themselves in turning around by using this simple tool – filter the secular propaganda that comes in through countless ways. Do you really need the world's secular philosophies? Secular music? Secular education? If we want lives and communities focused on godly living, let's filter the tap. We can do this by avoiding non-Christian education (especially for children), get rid of the truly unnecessary intrusion of the television, put filters on our internet and minimize time imbibing any non-Christian entertainment. Some people will characterize this advice as teaching isolationism, but this is a false claim, as nowhere in minimizing and filtering ungodly garbage must one actually isolate oneself. Ideas and images are like food brethren, and they can get into our souls whether we are adults or children. So to keep ourselves focused on our walk in Mashiach, and keep ourselves pure from the aims of the world, let's remove these media toxins from our lives. Adonai will bless us for it.

10: Keep the Sabbath: Here the last could be the first, brothers. I certainly don't believe that keeping days is a true mandate in the New Covenant, but there is amazing blessing in keeping the Sabbath, whether it be through the Jewish 7th day Sabbath or through treating the Lord's Day according to the Sabbath principle. The Sabbath is a beautiful illustration of Adonai's rest on the seventh day, as well as a day that fosters prayer, reflection, family time and community time. As a Jew I especially like to do it,

because there's extra time to sing songs. It was not that long ago when the average Christian shut down their business on the Lord's Day and would not consider doing otherwise. Today there is only Church Day, and its church attendance. I believe there is great power in restoration for us the moment we begin to return to our Sabbath rest. It is a part of what holds us together as the Body of Messiah, just as it always has been a part of what held together Israel. It is said that we have not kept the Sabbath, so much as the Sabbath has kept us.