

Resolutions Or Repentolutions?

The Lord has done some awesome things this past year here at The Great News Network. God has used this ministry to change many people's lives, including my own. I am blessed to be a part of the staff here at GNN and I count it a privilege to serve beside every one of you. I have met so many godly people through this ministry and have made so many new friends in Christ that it truly has been a taste of heaven. I am overwhelmed when I try to sit down and process all that has transpired over the past year. I just want to take a minute to say thanks to all of you who are part of this ministry and tell you that I truly am grateful for your prayers, letters of encouragement and the sweat fellowship we all share in Christ our Savior.

I know that many of you will start off the New Year with a "New Years Resolution". You will decide to make some significant change in your life over the next year to better yourself or others around you. Some will commit to loosing a few pounds, others to exercise, maybe finding a new job, or quitting some bad habits that you know are killing you or hurting others. Either way, whatever you decide to do or not to do, it is going to be a change for the better. No one wants to change for the worse right? It is always for the better and that is what makes the New Years Resolution so great. It is a time to examine, reflect, and change the path you are on, and get a fresh start.

As I considered this article and asked the Lord what I was to write about He impressed this on my heart and so I must share with all. What is a resolution, when do people make resolutions and why is a resolution made?

First of all what is a resolution? Although the word resolution has many meanings, I feel this one fits it best for the purpose of this article; One's decision to make a resolution (decision) to mend his or her ways. It is a solution to a known problem so that it may be fixed or resolved. A perfect example would be something like this. I know I am overweight and have high blood pressure therefore I am making a resolution to start exercising regularly and watching what I eat. The resolution was declared and the statement was made in hopes that by doing so the problem would be resolved.

Second, when is a resolution usually made? Well naturally in this case it would be at the beginning of the New Year hence the name "New Years Resolution". Since the tradition of New Years is to make a public statement in front of family and friends as to what you are planning on changing about yourself for the upcoming year. The New Year is a time when one can examine his life and makes a commitment to change something he or she doesn't like about themselves and get that clean slate.

Finally, why make a resolution? A resolution is made so that you can make a commitment in your mind to yourself and follow through with it. It is kind of like a stake in the ground making a commitment in front of family and friends to say “From this point on I will...” and then being accountable to them to stick to it. By doing this it allows others to speak into our lives when you get side track or to help motivate you when you’re tired and it keeps us accountable to our resolution.

So maybe you are asking what the point of this article is and what is all this stuff about resolutions? Well here it is and I will close with this. Let’s not make this New Years Resolution a bunch of empty promises about self reformation that will only fade away in a week, month or maybe a year. But instead let’s start the New Year of right by making a few “Repentolution’s”. This word is completely made up and means this: one’s decision after self evaluation to eliminate all things in his or her life that dishonors God. This seems to be much more biblical and glorifying to God then self reformation through resolutions.

Think about this: A resolution is a statement or declaration to self while a repentolution is a covenant made with God. A resolution is made in front of a few friends and family while a repentolution is made before the throne room of Almighty God. A resolution is only temporal and short lived while a repentolution is eternal and done through His strength not your own.

So what should we do when we share our “New Years Repentolutions” this year? I think we need to openly confess our sin to one another, pray for one another and be healed (James 5:16). We need to examine our hearts and make sure to rid them of anything that can effect or infect the body of Christ in a negative way. Let’s resolve in our minds to follow after Christ without compromise no matter what the cost. Let’s get alone with the Lord and make a covenant with Him and lean not on our own understanding but completely rely on His strength and His ability not our own. Let us follow after Christ and do all things for His honor and glory. Let us check our motives and ambitions and make sure there is no room for self or pride for that only leads to destruction. Let us be sold out for Him and not double minded being tossed to and fro. Let us seek first the kingdom of God and know that His righteousness will be added unto us. Let’s just take God at His word and be the New Creatures in Christ that we have been called to be.

That, my friend, will be my New Years Repentolution!!! How about you? I hope so. I pray this New Year is one of great joy and blessing for all and most of all I pray that each one of us will examine ourselves and make the best of our New Years Repentolution. Happy New Year and may God bless you all.