

By Robert C. Archer

BRING THE LOST BACK TO CHRIST

WHY SO DIFFICULT?

✘ **Because they repress the truth**

- + They don't want to be reminded that they are doing wrong.
- + They refuse to allow themselves to think about their sins & their lost condition.
- + They minimize their wrongdoing by saying "nobody's perfect"; "everybody does it", etc.
- + They blame others

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

× Confront them

+ That's what Peter did with Simon

× Acts 8:20-23

²⁰ But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!

²¹ You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

²² Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

²³ For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

× Confront them

+ Did it work?

× Acts 8:24

²⁴ Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

✘ Remove the excuses

- + Don't let them blame others (2 Cor. 13:5)
- + Make them realize that they have sinned against God
- + That's what Nathan did (2 Sam. 12:1-7)

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

✘ Nathan said to David

“You are the man!”

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

- × **Encourage them to remember their past**

- + That's what the prodigal did

- × **Luke 15:17**

¹⁷ But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'

HOW CAN WE HELP THEM COME BACK?

× Call for action

+ That's what Isaiah did

× Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

+ And again Peter to Simon

× Acts 8:22

× **²² Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.**

DANGER

- ✘ They can reach the point of no return
 - + Hebrews 6:4-6 (NKJV)
 - 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened...
 - 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.