

**To Repent, or Not to Repent—That is the Question:  
The Influence of Repentance on the Self and Society**

Repentance and regret are commonly thought to have the same meaning, but for Michael de Montaigne they are entirely different; repentance is the denial of one's nature, erasing actions and regret is wishing to undo them. In his essay "Of Repentment" Montaigne argues that all people are born with a certain nature, some lean toward good and others toward evil, but we cannot change who we are. Therefore, if we reason and act within our nature, then there is nothing to regret at all. Moreover, repentance is not necessary because we should not be held to our actions and words of the past, because our public nature is constantly changing. (Montaigne, 79) Along with your inner nature (83-84), Montaigne's concept of a public versus private persona, and that he does not condemn, and others are to changing the world a different person than you is at heart, is a dangerous proposition for community and personal life because it is seen as negating identity. It is not because wanting to and erasing away from this, that one can live an unaccountable life. His point is valid, but if one does not listen, this life can lead to mistakes by others, losing the self, committing crimes, and sadness. In addition, religious repentance is a point where similar characteristics is practiced, or if guided repentance where one determines if one's actions are acceptable. For instance, if a parent is a criminal/killer and lacks emotional capabilities, it is unlikely he or she will stop to think about what they do and how and their destructive habits. Since this person is the judge of his actions, they cannot be stopped and there lives, he or she is a threat to their community.

People are judged solely based on their public appearance and actions, and therefore expect a false image to the world. Montaigne offers a solution for this false judgment, not the same in public and private and then one will feel a personal responsibility to live up to themselves, thus often having the need to repent because one is always acting in accordance with