

MINISTRY TOOL #13 – FOR BREAKING TIES

Renouncing & Replacing

Whenever someone has agreed with a lie, a sinful system, a demonic strategy, or a faulty mindset, it's helpful to vocalize disagreement with that way of thinking and then reinforce the truth.



Titus 2:11–12 – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age (ESV)

EXPLANATION:

The Greek word for “renounce” is ἀρνέομαι (*arnéomai*), which means to deny, reject, or refuse. According to the BDAG (Bower, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich; 3rd Edition – *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*), this word means (1) to refuse consent to something, (2) to state that something is not true, (3) to disclaim association with a person or event, and (4) to refuse to pay attention to, or to disregard.

In short, and for the purposes of this tool, renunciation is a deliberate refusal of a proposed belief, mindset, or practice. And, in line with the second definition above, we practice this tool through verbal statements whenever possible.

Vocalization of the renunciation is helpful in moving from nebulous thoughts to a concrete truth statement. It gives the person a clear articulation of the lie they’re rejecting and the truth they’re embracing. Furthermore, if we are to learn anything from Proverbs 18:21 and John 6:63, there appears to also be value in the spiritual person speaking words of truth from the heart.

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

The gospel confronts us with truth claims that challenge the lies taught by our culture and experiences. Sometimes people will give intellectual approval of truth while still bearing the fruit of falsehood that remains in their hearts. Some things are understood in the mind but not yet in the heart.

First Corinthians 2:14–16 tells us, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

In other words, our flesh can never produce a real understanding of truth. Such things are spiritually discerned. We must reject our reliance on things understood in the flesh if we are to

give ourselves wholly to the gospel Jesus offers to our spirit. Today, as people awakened by the Holy Spirit, we judge all things. With the mind of Christ, we can analyze the things we were taught in the natural realm, judge whether they're consistent with the gospel, and approve or reject them accordingly, either renouncing them or receiving them into our spirits. In this way, we can dismantle false mindsets and bring our hearts and minds more into line with the message of Jesus.

Renunciation is like confession, identifying the specific lie or activity that is being crucified with Christ. The lies we believe are actually sinful judgments—strongholds of the mind that stand in opposition to knowing Jesus.

The truth that replaces the lie is always connected to or compatible with the gospel. These truths have their greatest effect when heard directly from the Lord, but we can still reinforce and even present these truths with Scripture and prophetic ministry.

HOW TO:

- ❑ During the ministry session, listen for beliefs, mindsets, and practices that are out of sync with gospel truth. Take note of such things for later.
- ❑ As truth is discovered throughout the ministry time, lead the person to renounce the faulty ideas and activities. (Note that this happens after truth-discovery, not as a means of truth-delivery. In other words, don't make the person renounce something that they still believe. Bring them to a recognition of truth, and then make the declaration.)

This generally takes the form of "repeat after me..." or "say these words..." and could look like the following:

- "I renounce the spirit of rage."
 - "I reject the lie that I'm not wanted."
 - "I turn my back on that fascination I once had with fear."
 - "I confess my sinful judgment that I am stupid and put it on the cross."
- ❑ After renouncing a lie, it's often important to reinforce the truth. This could look like the following:
 - "I choose to submit myself to peace from the Holy Spirit."
 - "I receive the truth that my Father loves and receives me."
 - "I embrace a new lifestyle, seeking God's kingdom and righteousness first."
 - "I receive the truth that I have the mind of Christ."