



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, November 19, 2017

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Why Repentance is Important in Our Faith Walk

Recently, I was reading Psalms 51, David's wonderful psalm on repentance. It made me think how seriously broken David was of his sin. David clearly understood that his sin dishonored God. This also made me think about our western culture and the very low view we have of sin and of pursuing holiness in our day to day life.

Have you ever heard someone say: If we're justified by faith and forgiven all of our sins – past, present, and future – then why is it necessary to continue seeking forgiveness? This view is all too common today and indicates a shallow understanding of scripture. The demand to repent is very clear in scripture, it's important we obey God's Word. Let's review what Jesus has to say about repentance;

(Matthew 4:17) *"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

(Luke 5:32) *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

(Luke 13:3, 5) *"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

After He had risen from the dead, Jesus made sure that His apostles would continue the call for repentance throughout the world. (Luke 24:46-47), *"that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations."*

So, you can see Jesus has a lot to say about the need to repent. Jesus explains to us that sin is a big deal, and that we are all sinners in need of repentance. For more, see the following verses; Luke 3:8, Luke 11:4, 2 Corinthians 7:10, and Acts 2:38.

You may be thinking, OK, what is Biblical repentance? The repentance that takes place at conversion begins a progressive, lifelong process of confession. This active, continuous attitude of repentance produces the poverty of spirit, mourning, and meekness Jesus spoke of in the Beatitudes ~ I love this connection. (Matthew 5:3-6). Clearly, repentance is not a one-time act. But for a follower of Christ, it's a day to day event.

In 1 John 1:8-10, scripture tells us; *"if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

What I love about these verses is that God not only commands us to confess our sins, but also promises to forgive us. What grace! Warren Wiersbe's makes the following comments on these verses; "Sin in the life of the believer breaks the fellowship but does not

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Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132
lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry

Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
fugate.sara@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Pete Manship (Treasurer):
715.755.3330
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

GriefShare Ministry

Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431
conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry

Diane McMahon:
715.453.8123
dedewiz@gmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner:
715.557.0661
lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services

Barb Manship: 612.804.9793
or 715.755.3330
barb@pbmpkmanship.com

Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Why Repentance is Important...

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destroy the sonship." A true Christian is always accepted even if not acceptable. The Christian who truly understands God's provision for a life of holiness does not want to deliberately disobey God.

I like the following quote from Oswald Chambers, "Repentance always brings a man to this point: I have sinned. The surest sign that God is at work is when a man says that and means it." William Law, who lived in England in the 1700's wrote the following, "Whatever is foolish, ridiculous, vain, or earthly, or sensual, in the life of a Christian is something that ought not to be there. It is a spot and a defilement that must be washed away with the tears of repentance."

Jesus' teachings make the point that repentance is the inner change that gives rise to a new God-centered, and Christ-exalting behavior. True repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior, of course not a perfect behavior, we rely on Christ for His perfect righteousness. I think of Peter and Judas, they both denied Jesus, yet Peter repented, and became a pillar of the faith. We all know the sad story of Judas.

It's important to remember that in this life we are and always will be imperfect, a saved sinner, seeking to grow in holiness and relating to God on the basis of grace that is ours because we are "IN-CHRIST". As believers, we are always complete in Christ, yet we are also in real relationship with God. By analogy, in human relationships we know something of this truth. As a parent, I am in relationship with my children. Because they are my family, they will never be cast out: the relationship is permanent. Yet if they sin against me, or I against them, our relationship is strained and needs to be restored. Our covenant relationship with God works in a similar way.

We should strengthen our loving relationship with our Lord by confessing and repenting our sins. This actually becomes healing for us and at the same time we glorify our Lord. We should also ask the Lord to open our eyes to sins we do not see, this is a difficult yet needed prayer. And, believe me, others do see your sins. I've been amazed over the years what sins the Lord has pointed out to me that I really did not fully see or understand at first. If you are a parent and married just ask your children and or spouse. (Warning: You may want to take a couple of Advil first, you may get a headache, lol).

I want to encourage you that each day we should have heartfelt repentance for sins that we have committed, and faith in Christ to provide for our needs and to empower us to live the Christian Life in relationship with Him. This level of obedience will bring you great joy and fellowship. Repentance is really what happens inside of us. This change leads to the fruit of our new behavior. In Luke 3:8, Jesus shows us the relationship between repentance and our new behavior.

Your brother in Christ, Jim Nelson

November Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:8

"Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!" (ESV)

Upcoming Events

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAY (GriefShare Event)

Grieving? Know someone who is? When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is **December 2**, 9:30 am - Noon This GriefShare event helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future. Guests will receive a Survival Guide booklet. Ages 12-18 are welcome if they have experienced the death of a loved one. RSVP is appreciated, but not required. This morning of support is free. Flyers are available on the entrance table.

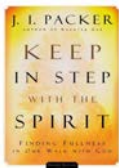
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Save the date! Cecelia Gustafson is once again going on a mission trip to Tapestries of Life in Mexico. She is looking for prayer and financial support. Would you consider joining in support of her service to Jesus? On Saturday, **December 9** at 8:00 am, Cecelia is organizing a pancake breakfast in order to raise support for the trip. Bring the whole family! All proceeds will go directly to the ministry unto the orphans in Northern Mexico.

WOMEN'S 10th ANNUAL RETREAT

Pam Stratmoen's 10th annual Woman's Retreat will be held **January 26-28**, 2018. Oak Forest Retreat Center, 2824 130th Street, Frederic, WI. This year's study will be using Lysa Terkeurst's book, *FINDING I AM*. You can find further details about this retreat and the registration form on the Welcome table.

Resource Center Highlight



In this new edition of his classic, *Keep In Step with the Spirit*, J. I. Packer seeks to help Christians reaffirm the biblical call to holiness and the Spirit's role in keeping our covenant with God. Packer discusses both the merits and shortcomings of the current Charismatic Movement and how Christ must always be at the center of true Spirit-led ministry [as he] encourages believers to implement the Spirit's directives and discusses how to map the Spirit's path in your life." Stop by the Resource Center to pick up a copy today!

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD ~ Blessings to all this Thanksgiving!

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New Life now has an Instagram account.
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Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com

Pastor Chandler Wiley 815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Cory Mattson ~ Secretary: 715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
Rene Milner 715.557.0185
Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Nov 19 Forge Ministry (9th-12th Grade)
No Forge this week

Nov 22 Immerse (all ages)
No Immerse this week

Nov 23 Men's Bible Study
No Study this week

Nov 23 Women's Bible Study
No Study this week

Nov 23 GriefShare Evening Meeting
No Meetings until Dec 7

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Nov 26 Meal Team #6
Dec 3 Potluck Team #2
Dec 10 Meal Team #7

Join us for Fellowship and a Meal after our service today!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Mark 15:1-15

Sermon Notes:

