

# JOHN THE BAPTIST AND REPENTANCE

Matthew Chapter 3

## JOHN THE BAPTIST: THE MAN

Matthew 3.1-6

- John’s mother was cousins with Jesus’ mother.
- His arrival was foretold in the Word.

Malachi 4.1-6 // Matthew 11.10-15 // Isaiah 40.3

## JOHN THE BAPTIST: THE MESSAGE

Matthew 3.7-10, 12.33-37 // Psalm 95.7, 8 // 2 Corinthians 7.9-13

### All transformation starts with repentance.

-C.H. Spurgeon

**Repentance:** Greek word is “metanoia,” which means to “turn around.”

- **Confession:** not just acknowledgment. The Greek word means “to say the same.” This means we see, say, and agree that our sin is “the same” as how God sees it.
- **Contrition:** a deep remorse over our sin, not the consequences or the way it makes us feel. We’re broken that we have sinned against “God and God alone.”
- **Conversion:** true repentance is evidenced by an actual change; inward followed by outward.

## REAL REPENTANCE

FROM JARED WILSON

1. We name our sin *as sin* and do not spin it or excuse it.
2. We confessed before being caught or the consequences of our sin caught up with us.
3. If found out, we confess immediately or very soon after and “come clean,” rather than having to have the full truth pulled from us. Repentance is accompanied by transparency.
4. We have a willingness and eagerness to make amends. We will do whatever it takes to make things right and to demonstrate we have changed.
5. We are patient with those we’ve hurt or victimized, spending as much time as is required listening to them without jumping to defend ourselves; we don’t pressure them or guilt them into forgiving us.
6. We are willing to confess our sin even in the face of serious consequences ( church discipline, jail, losing relationships).
7. We may grieve the consequences of our sin but we do not bristle under them or resent them. We understand that sometimes our sin causes great damage to others that is not healed in the short term (or perhaps ever).
8. If our sin involves addiction or patterns, we seek help with a counselor or rehab center.
9. We don’t resent accountability, pastoral rebuke, or church discipline.
10. We seek our comfort in the grace of God in Jesus Christ, not simply in being free of the consequences of our sin.
11. We are humble and teachable.



# NOTES:

## Recommended Resources

### The Gospel Transformation Bible

Published by Crossway, this bible is not *so much* a study bible, but a bible with commentary to help you see the bigger picture of Christ and His Gospel in and through all the Scriptures.

# ARE YOU NEW HERE?

## WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We’re so glad you joined us today! We’d LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we’d love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you’ve ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you’re **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You’ll **forge friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won’t regret it!

## GIVING

**Gospel-centered generosity** should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give) or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

## KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6<sup>th</sup> grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids) to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey’s heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

## JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at [hbarnes5@yahoo.com](mailto:hbarnes5@yahoo.com) or **John Hawthorne** at [hawthorne-john@hotmail.com](mailto:hawthorne-john@hotmail.com)

# SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

# EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

# SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

**Jobey McGinty // Lead Pastor**  
jobey@lifemission.tv

**Eric Price // Community and Connection**  
eric@lifemission.tv

**Pete Christopher // Technical Arts**  
pete@lifemission.tv

**Matt Piro // Worship Leader**  
matt@lifemission.tv

**Audra Napolitano // Kids on Mission**  
audra@lifemission.tv

**Kim Roberson // Administration**  
kim@lifemission.tv

**Laurie Garcia // Administration**  
laurie@lifemission.tv

**Life Mission Church**  
Call or Text: 760-975-4525  
PO Box 908, San Marcos, CA 92079  
  
**www.LifeMissionChurch.com**  
Facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch  
Twitter: @YourLifeMission  
YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 3.1-10**. What stuck out to you in this passage or was most impactful from the message on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Many times, we acknowledge our sin before The Lord and even confess our sin. Read **Exodus 9:27, Joshua 7:20, 1 Samuel 15:24, Matthew 19:16-22** and **Matthew 27:3-10**. In your own words, define repentance. Now read **Psalms 51**. Why can't we simply acknowledge and confess our sin without repenting? What's the difference between regretful confession and true repentance? \_\_\_\_\_  
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If part of true repentance requires a 180 degree turn with our backs against our sin, what is John the Baptist telling people to turn and face towards? Read **Matthew 3:2**. \_\_\_\_\_

Read **1 Peter 2:24, Romans 6:2, 6:11, 6:13** and **Colossians 2:14**. How can we keep on committing the same sin when have died to it? \_\_\_\_\_  
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At this time, please break up into small groups of guys and girls and confess any sin to one another, then go through the rest of these notes.

Ask one another if they have any sin to confess, remembering that this is one of the fundamental actions of what it means to be a Christian. It's a lifestyle. Pastor and author Paul David Tripp that says "The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love Him better, and learn to love others as He designed." Do you agree with this statement? More importantly, do your *actions show* that you agree with this statement?

Theologian Thomas Watson once said, "Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet." What can you do to help Christ to become more sweet and the particular sin you're dealing with to become more bitter? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Read **Ephesians 4:22-24**. What does it look like to "put off" your sin and "put on" Christ in your sin you just confessed? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Last, pray for one other (**James 5:16**) to truly repent from sin and with a humble, loving heart remind each other of God's grace.

**"If you are renewed by grace, and were to meet your old self, I am sure you would be very anxious to get out of his company."** - Charles Spurgeon