

YOU BELONG HERE!

***You belong here!** Not by virtue of anything you have done, but because Jesus has made it so.*

At Centerpoint Church, we believe in the transforming power and love of Jesus Christ. We believe that we exist for the sake of the kingdom beyond ourselves - and we will do whatever it takes, short of sin, to make Christ known.

In this series, we will look at how we do the work of knowing Christ, growing together, and reaching beyond ourselves through our values: **Centering on the Gospel, Transforming Lives, Prioritizing Healthy Culture, Valuing Generations, and Living on Mission.**

OUR MISSION

At Centerpoint Church, we are a community of believers impacted by God's saving grace and the love He demonstrated in Jesus Christ. Our response to this amazing grace is to allow it to transform our lives and to share it with others. As a body of believers, we find our purpose in knowing Christ, growing together, and reaching beyond ourselves to help others do the same.



**REACHING BEYOND
OURSELVES TO MAKE
CHRIST KNOWN.**

OUR VALUES

We have five core values that make it easy for us to stay on mission together as a church. We think of these values as a compass. In everything we do, they give us direction and help us stay true to who God has called us to be.





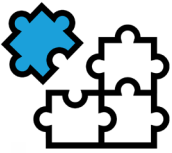
CENTERING ON THE GOSPEL

The Bible is the foundation of all we do and believe. It introduces us to God's truth and the good news that He loves us with immeasurable grace. This beautiful gospel is the very center-point of our lives and our efforts.



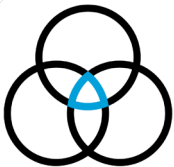
TRANSFORMING LIVES

God's grace changes everything. We lean into Him to continually transform our hearts, minds, and lives. We allow God to change us and serve to guide others to the feet of Jesus so that they can experience the life-changing power of Christ.



PRIORITIZING HEALTHY CULTURE

We work to create a culture that is spiritually and emotionally healthy. We promote transparency, vulnerability, and accountability so that God can do his best work in us and through us, together.



VALUING GENERATIONS

We are committed to being a multigenerational church that pursues Christ together— investing in generations beyond our own, prioritizing intergenerational relationships, and providing effective ministry for all of life's stages.



LIVING ON MISSION

Our mission, "Reaching beyond ourselves to make Christ known," is more than an event or program. Together, we are following the Holy Spirit into a vibrant, generous, life-giving journey to share Christ's love in our homes, our church, our community, and throughout the world.

We live out our mission and our values by *knowing Christ, growing together*, and *reaching beyond ourselves* to make Christ known.

QUESTIONS

What does Centerpoint's mission mean to you?

Which of the values sticks out to you the most?

Is there a particular value that you identify with or get excited about?

NOTES

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CENTERING ON THE GOSPEL

The Bible is the foundation of all we do and believe. It introduces us to God's truth and the good news that He loves us with immeasurable grace. This beautiful gospel is the very center-point of our lives and our efforts.

(Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18, 2 Corinthians, 9:22-23, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, 1 Peter 1:3-12)

What is the gospel? Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God to earth to redeem God's people to himself. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, free of sin, to take our place. He willingly laid down His life on the cross, and He picked it back up again. Through His resurrection, He defeated death and its hold on us for all time. Now, through faith in Jesus, all have access to eternity in the presence of God. A number of teachers in ancient times claimed to be the Messiah, but it's likely you have never heard of them. That's because they died and stayed dead. What is different about Jesus is that He was resurrected from the dead. He was dead, and now He is alive.

If this isn't true there is no Christian faith. That is the center of the gospel. Not good teaching or right thinking, but resurrection. Often, the question of "What is the gospel?" is answered with a single passage of Scripture.

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

It's all God: God makes all the first moves. God recognizes our sin problem well before we do. He knew it was a problem before we were thought of, and He created the plan to eradicate our sin and provide a way back to Him. He knew we couldn't do it alone. Our entire role is to believe that Jesus is who He says He is. We don't have to behave perfectly. We don't have to fix ourselves. We just have to believe.

Everyone is on a journey with Jesus. The circles below represent a “centered-set” mindset. Everyone can find themselves somewhere in this picture in relation to Jesus who is at the center. Some of us are headed towards Him, and some of us are headed away from Him. A “centered-set” model shows that everyone belongs. In the “bounded-set” model there are people who are in and people who are out. People who belong and people who don't. In the centered-set model, everyone belongs.

We believe that our journey toward Jesus reflect this “centered-set” model. That means you belong, and that is the truth of the gospel.



You belong here.

Where are you?

Take a moment to honestly place yourself on this chart in relation to Jesus who is the center.

SERMON NOTES

Centering on the Gospel | 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

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QUESTIONS

In 2 Corinthians 4:1–6, what does Paul say can keep people from seeing Jesus clearly? What tends to obscure your view of Jesus?

Paul says, “We do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.” Where are you most tempted to make yourself, your preferences, your circumstances, or something else the center?

We say that Jesus is the center and the point of everything we do. If that were increasingly true in your life, what might move closer to the center—and what might need to move toward the edges?

God is the one who causes light to shine in the darkness. How does knowing that transformation is ultimately God’s work change the way you relate to people who are at a different place in their journey toward Jesus?

In 1 Corinthians 9:22–23, Paul is willing to hold personal preferences loosely “for the sake of the gospel.” What preference, habit, or assumption might you need to hold more loosely so that someone else can see Jesus more clearly?

Who is one person you can intentionally point toward Jesus this week, and what might that actually look like?



TRANSFORMING LIVES

God's grace changes everything. We lean into Him to continually transform our hearts, minds and lives. We allow God to change us and serve to guide others to the feet of Jesus so that they can experience the life-changing power of Christ.

(Romans 12:1-2, Ezekiel 11:19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Titus 3:4-7)

Do you remember the old reality TV show that had the famous catchphrase, "Move that bus..."? It was called *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The idea was to transform a family's home in seven days. Usually, the family had a health or financial struggle. Initially, the team would remodel the homes to make them more workable for the new family situation or to fix what wasn't able to be fixed because of financial struggle.

Soon, a change occurred in the show, and instead of a remodel, the old house was torn down and a brand new house was built to accommodate the family's needs. The old was gone, and a new creation stood in its place.

This is what transformation in Christ is like. We become new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

When we surrender our lives to Jesus, He takes all of it. He works alongside us until there isn't a recognizable remnant of our old lives left. This might not make sense to those in the world who haven't been transformed, but this journey toward transformation is so worth it.

Romans 12:2

²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

It's okay not to be okay, but it's not okay to stay that way.

Jesus loves us as He finds us, but He loves us so much that He refuses to leave us that way. No matter what you have done, Jesus meets you there, and He loves you enough to walk with you while you are transformed to become more like Him.

The Holy Spirit starts the work of transformation before we are even aware of His presence. What does this transformation look like?

It's like tearing down the old house to build something new. Nothing is the same. How could it be? Before Jesus, our lives were overwhelmed by sin. The way of Jesus is far from sin, so of course we aren't recognizable when we have been transformed by His grace and mercy.

All of us are in need of transformation. None of us are free from the destruction of sin. God allows us to be a part of the transformation stories of others. When others notice transformation in us and get curious, we have the opportunity to share about what Jesus has done in us and for us, and we can share that He wants to do the same thing for them.

Our need for transformation isn't a personal attack it's just a reality of being human. We should be confident inviting others into a transformative relationship with Jesus because of the transformation we have already experienced.

SERMON NOTES

Transforming Lives | Titus 3:4-7

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QUESTIONS

According to Titus 3:4–7, what is the source of our salvation and transformation? What does the passage specifically say it is not based upon?

Where are you tempted to believe that belonging to God depends on your performance rather than His kindness, mercy, and grace?

The passage describes salvation as “washing,” “renewal,” and being made new by the Holy Spirit. Where do you currently see evidence that Jesus is changing you?

Where in your life might you be resisting the Spirit’s work because change feels uncomfortable, costly, or slow?

If grace means we don’t have to change in order to belong, but belonging to Jesus inevitably begins to change us, how does that shape the way you view yourself? How does it shape the way you view others?

Who knows you well enough to see where God is transforming you—and where you still need to grow? What would it look like to invite that person more intentionally into your discipleship?



PRIORITIZING HEALTHY CULTURE

We work to create a culture that is spiritually and emotionally healthy. We promote transparency, vulnerability and accountability so that God can do his best work in us and through us, together.

(Colossians 3:12-13, John 13:34-35, 2 Corinthians 5:16-19, Galatians 5:22-26)

Culture is the shared set of beliefs, values, customs, behaviors and knowledge that characterize a group of people. Culture is who we truly are together. We can write whatever we like on a wall, but who we are is functionally displayed by the culture we exhibit.

There is a quote that says, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.” Simply, this means that plans, vision, and hopes cannot hold up to a strongly held culture.

Often, a group’s culture can be hard to explain or write out. Generally, culture has to be experienced to be fully understood. You have to be present within a group to understand it.

Take the Savannah Bananas baseball club for example. How would you explain what they do or what they are about to someone who has never heard of them before?

If you ask their founder/owner, Jesse Cole, he will tell you the Bananas are about the “fans first” experience. Jesse is passionate about fans having an unbelievable experience. Baseball is just the vehicle he has chosen to deliver the intended cultural experience.

How's it going? The Bananas went from being laughed at to creating their own six-team league. Since their first season, they have sold out every single game. Baseball has been played professionally for 160 years, but this is different. This league is selling an experience, a feeling, and a cultural phenomenon.

That's how culture works. It stands out, but it may be hard to explain. Great culture and bad culture are easy to recognize when you experience them.

We aren't trying to create anything totally new. Jesus established an unbelievable culture when He called His first disciples. He asked them to surrender themselves, to be humble, and to become servants. Jesus touched the untouchable. He sat and ate with sinners. He gave hope to a Samaritan woman at a Samaritan well when any self respecting Jew wouldn't step on Samaritan soil. The way of Jesus was radically different than the culture of the world around Him.

Jesus put others before himself. He pointed out all the people the religious had overlooked. He made it clear God cares for all people. We aren't our own. We are to be His vessels called to bring Him glory.

What Jesus is asking us to do, isn't easy but it is simple. This passage from Colossians is a good place to start.

Colossians 3:12-13

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

We aren't creating a brand new sports entertainment genre. We are simply reminding ourselves, and anyone else who may be listening, that Jesus has given us a new way of being. All we have to do is discover it again and live into it. This new culture may seem weird, uncomfortable, challenging, out of place. But the One we follow has made it clear that this is the way forward for us.

SERMON NOTES

Prioritizing Healthy Culture | Galatians 5:22-26

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QUESTIONS

Read the fruit of the Spirit slowly. Which fruit do you currently see God producing most clearly in your life? Which one exposes an area where you still need growth?

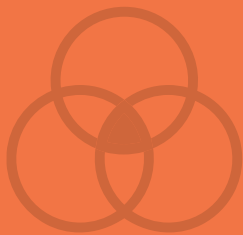
Paul says, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to take a next step toward Jesus right now?

Verses 25–26 connect life in the Spirit with the way we treat one another. How do conceit, comparison, envy, or provoking others damage a healthy community?

Think about the environments you help create—in your home, workplace, friendships, small group, or church. What do people tend to experience when they are around you? How closely does that resemble the fruit of the Spirit?

Healthy Christian culture makes room for people who are at different stages of discipleship. What helps you remain patient and gracious with someone who is not where you think they should be?

What is one relational action you could take this week that would make it easier for someone around you to experience the character of Jesus?



VALUING GENERATIONS

We are committed to being a multigenerational church that pursues Christ together—investing in generations beyond our own, prioritizing intergenerational relationships, and providing effective ministry for all of life's stages.

(1 Timothy 4:12, Acts 2:17, Ephesians 4:8; 11-16, Psalm 145:4-7, 2 Timothy 1:5)

Have you ever seen the movie *Secondhand Lions*? It stars Robert Duvall and Michael Caine as surly, older gentlemen whose families believe they are very rich, though you can't tell by how they live. One family member leaves her 14 year old son with them to try to win their affection and inherit their fortune when they pass on. What ensues is an odd collection of adventures and a number of opportunities for the older generation to teach the younger generation some lessons. The two uncles soon realize they are also able to learn a few things from the young man left in their care. Although this is a fictional story, there is a lot that we can learn from it.

We have been given the ability to learn from, and to share wisdom with, people from all different ages and stages of life.

Psalm 145: 4-7

⁴ One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. ⁵ They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The goal of valuing generations in view of following Jesus is not to put ourselves or our preferences first but to lift up the next generation and honor past generations.

Jesus famously said, “For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus’ life is the picture of selflessness. As followers of Jesus, we are to follow in His steps. The issue is that every generation believes their way is the best, and other generations have little to offer.

How can we actively value generations?

Invest in the generations around you - If you’re not dead, God’s not done. You are still here because God has more for you to do.

You are not done just because your kids have already gone through our programmed ministry - find a way to serve in kids or student ministries.

You don’t get a free pass now. Maybe you aren’t the leader of dodgeball or the person who plays on the floor with the babies in the nursery. Your role may change, but you still have a place investing in those generations.

We honor the generations around us by investing in them - serving them, being in relationship with them, and learning from them.

In the Church, we see Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z, Gen Alpha all interacting together in the same place for the same purpose. We want to be a place where all generations can be unified in relationship.

We aim to give opportunities for all generations to grow - older generations are not done, and younger generations don’t have to wait to get involved - get serving, get involved. If you see anyone on the sidelines, invite them in. Following Jesus is not a spectator sport. We all have a role.

SERMON NOTES

Valuing Generations | Ephesians 4:8; 11-16

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QUESTIONS

According to Ephesians 4, why does Christ give different gifts to different people? What does this suggest about the role you have in the life of the church?

Paul describes maturity as “growing...into Christ.” In what area of your life are you currently growing toward greater maturity in Jesus?

Who has helped you grow into the person and disciple you are today? What did they give you that you could not easily have given yourself?

What do people from a different generation have to offer you that you may be tempted to overlook? What might you have to offer them?

Verse 16 pictures the body growing as “each part does its work.” Where are you actively contributing to the spiritual growth of others rather than simply receiving from the church?

Who is one person—perhaps from another generation—you could intentionally invest in, learn from, encourage, or disciple during this season?



LIVING ON MISSION

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(Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 7:9-10, Revelation 21:1-3)

Have you heard of Hiroo Onoda? He was a Japanese Second Lieutenant stationed on Lubang Island in the Philippines during WWII. Onoda’s final orders from his superior officers were to begin guerrilla warfare operations on the island and to hold out no matter what.

After a few months, only three soldiers were still with Onoda. Even after receiving word of Japanese surrender in 1945, they continued guerrilla operations for years, not being convinced to surrender until 1974. Lieutenant Onoda was the dictionary definition of living on mission. He could not be shaken from what he believed he had been ordered to do.

This is obviously an extreme example of dedication to a flawed goal, but the commitment is striking.

What would our lives look like if we lived with this sort of commitment and reckless abandon toward the mission Jesus has called all of His followers to?

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Can you imagine if our lives were ordered solely around the commitment to the mission of going and making disciples who make disciples? It would be different. But not impossible. You probably won't have to hide out in the jungles of Lubang Island, but who knows where a life wholly committed to the mission of Jesus Christ might take you.

At the very least, we can all commit to being the hands and feet of Jesus on our blocks, in our neighborhoods, and within our families. We can serve others, be selfless, point people to Jesus, pray incessantly, share the Gospel, and live like it's real.

What are you committed to now that might be interfering with your commitment to make disciples?

There is no qualifying statement in what Jesus says at the end of the Gospel of Matthew. No "if, then" statement. It just says, go and make disciples of all nations. That means you.

Followers of Jesus are qualified to go and make disciples because it is what we are called to do as disciples ourselves.

Who are you discipling? What is the plan? When can you launch them to be a disciple maker? What's stopping you from discipling someone? How long has that barrier been a barrier? What are you doing about it?

These questions might feel pointed, but this assignment is so important. God's plan for the future of the Church is you. It's disciples making disciples. It's time to step up and reorient our lives around the one and only mission that should consume our lives. It's time to truly be living on mission.

SERMON NOTES

Living on Mission / Revelation 7:9-10

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QUESTIONS

Revelation 7 gives us a picture of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language gathered around Jesus. What does this vision reveal about the scope of God's heart and mission?

What boundaries—social, generational, cultural, political, racial, economic, or personal—can make it difficult for you to imagine certain people belonging in God's family?

If Revelation 7 shows us where God's story is going, how should that future shape the way we live and relate to people now?

Centerpoint's aim is to make Christ known. Where has God already placed you among people who need to experience the good news of Jesus through your presence, words, and actions?

Who in your life might need an invitation to belong before they fully believe—an invitation to eat with you, serve with you, ask questions, worship with you, or simply experience Christian community?

Who are you helping move toward Jesus, and who might God be inviting you to begin discipling so that they eventually help someone else move toward Jesus too?