



Grace and Repentance | Ronnie Johnson | 9.29.19  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**When you think about your week, what is the biggest life-giving thing to you and what is the most life-draining thing to you?**

SHARE

Welcome to our ongoing series called “By Design.”

It’s by design that the local church is God’s plan in the redemptive purposes God has for this world. It is by design that we find our fulfillment in Jesus; there is no other love that will fill the God-shaped hole in the human heart. It is by design that God gave each of us gifts to use for the building of the church.

It is by design, that together, we are the body of Christ. We are a city on a hill, a great beacon in the darkness, lighting the way for a lost and broken world to draw closer to Jesus.

Together, we are the body of Jesus, and the world will know that we are truly his disciples by our love for each other. This is all by God’s design.

The more we understand what God desires for us individually and what God has in mind for his church, the more we will be able to live with freedom and with purpose each and every day!

It is all by design.

G R O W

### **Read: Romans 7:21-25**

The Gospel message of Jesus is the best news anyone could give, but at times it can feel too well-known or even lackluster from familiarity. This weekend, Ronnie spent time clarifying some things Biblically to help us see the Good News as GOOD (even great!), again. Jesus wants us to repent from our sins and come home to Him; He wants the good news to change the way that we think.

**In a moment of reflection and vulnerability, what has YOUR experience of Jesus and His good news been? (Since oftentimes our experiences are informed by other people's perspectives and/or opinions, try to focus on YOUR experience with Jesus, not the church, not the programs and all the things that come with the followers of Jesus, but Jesus, Himself, and the central message of the good news)**

- **Let's not seek to simply define good news but share our first-hand experience of the gospel; the "knowing" that comes only from personal and intimate time spent with Jesus. Has it been one that has been intellectual, hard, weird, based on religion and doing more, trying to be good...or has it been one of radical good news?**

Whatever our experience is, and our shared experiences of the gospel have been, Jesus continues to invite all that would listen to repentance. The invitation of the gospel and of the good news is a continual and constant call to repentance. As Ronnie shared that, the original intent and understanding of repentance was/is a shift that takes place in our minds. It is a change in the way we think that gives way to changes in our allegiance and affections. Repentance is the root that ultimately and eventually blossoms and bears fruit in our lives.

**An old philosophical conundrum as primal as the "chicken or the egg" argument is whether or not we live ourselves into new ways of thinking or think our way into new ways of living. What do you think or what have you discovered for yourself?  
Do find that you try to live your way into new thinking, or think your way into new living?**

## MOVE

**Read: 1 John 2:2; Acts 3:19; Romans 2:4**

Repentance can feel like we are constantly managing our sin. But this was not the intent. Instead, God intended it to magnify His grace and kindness. He made a way for us where we were incapable of doing it on our own. John 3:16 says that “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.” Because of God’s loving kindness towards us, nothing will ever separate us from having communion with him. This is the deep love and amazing grace we can fully rest in. This is the Good News.

**Share a time when you were let off the hook, forgiven, or given a “pass” when you really didn’t deserve it. The example could be small or big, with small ramifications, or very large ones. What emotions did you experience when you were given a “pass?”**

**From the alternate perspective, share about a time when someone came to you in need of forgiveness and you gave it to them (again, this could be for something large or something small). What was that experience like, and what can you imagine the heart of God feels when we come to him for forgiveness?**

## PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

## TOGO

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news! (Mark 1:14-15)

