

We All Have Issues

More Like Jesus Message Series Week 1

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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Goal: To become more like Jesus. (Romans 8:28-29)

Dealing with my issues involves...

**1. Recognizing we all have issues. (Luke 18:9-14;
Romans 1:26-2:1)**

- Don't justify or blame.
- Don't excuse or minimize.

“It is only when you begin to accept that your greatest problem in all of life is not what has happened or been done to you that you begin to get excited about the rescuing grace of Jesus Christ. It is only when you begin to accept that your greatest need is something with which you came into the world that you will begin to hunger for the help that only God can give you. It is only then that you will begin to hunger for more than changes of situation and relationship. It is only then that you will begin to accept the most radical and personally liberating truth that you could ever conceive. What is that truth? It is that what you and I really need to be rescued from is ourselves! We are the biggest danger to ourselves. That is why God offers us the gorgeous promise of his grace which has the power to change us from the inside out.”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow*, Crossway,
Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 39.

**2. Answering the question, “Do I want to get well?”
(John 5:1-6)**

3. Changing my heart, not behavior modification.

(Luke 6:43-45; Psalm 139:23-24)

“Too often, we focus our attention on changing the external rather than addressing the internal. But Jesus was very clear that what defiles us proceeds from inside our hearts—our beliefs and our motives. The fruit of our lives comes from the roots of our faith. Just as a thermometer detects a fever, what we see or experience tells us about the gospel health of our hearts. So we need to learn to trace the fruit back to the root.”

Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2017, pp. 117-118.

“And because we generally don’t go beyond the fruit to the root, we end up aiming at behavior modification instead of gospel transformation.”

Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2017, p. 124.

4. Identifying the idols of my heart. (Jeremiah 2:5, 13)

“Jesus came to restore fully your heart to God. You will worship and serve what you love most. Recovery comes when you let God remove your idols—your worldly loves that direct you to dead-end paths. God does not want your heart divided. A divided heart got you into recovery.”

Watermark Community Church, *re:generation Steps 4-6*, Dallas, TX, 2020, p. 93.

“When God removes an idol and replaces it with himself, it affects life. Priorities change when he becomes your first love. Relationships change. Sources of protection, comfort, pleasure, and provision change. Responses to life’s temptations and trials change. These things change because whom you serve has changed.”

Watermark Community Church, *re:generation Steps 4-6*, Dallas, TX, 2020, p. 94.

5. **Confessing my sin to others.** (James 5:16; Galatians 6:2)

6. **Repentance.** (Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10)

- Turn from sinful patterns and idols (what our hearts worship) and turn to God.

“However, confession without repentance is like a man pulled from his rut, given a new destination and a navigator, but then he returns to the same dead end path. To live in freedom, it is not enough to recognize you are on the wrong road and step out of your ruts (confess). You must also change direction (repent). You must turn from dead end paths, turn to God’s path, and walk with him as he leads you.”

Watermark Community Church, *re:generation Steps 4-6*,
Dallas, TX, 2020, p. 89.

“Turning from sinful paths that you have walked for years is difficult. Most likely, you have built your home, life, career, and relationships among them. Your mind and body have worn deep ruts of sinful behavior that are easy to slip into but hard to get out of. To escape these old ruts means changing what you love, seek, and rely upon.

You will need to retrain your mind and body to know God’s path, hear his voice, and respond to it first. You will have to allow God’s destination for you to be your own. You will have to remove things in your path that cause you to stumble and change relationships that pull you in wrong direction. The death of your old nature can be painful—like losing a part of yourself or someone you love.”

Watermark Community Church, *re:generation Steps 4-6*,
Dallas, TX, 2020, p. 89.

7. **Living from my identity in Christ.** (Ephesians 1:3-7)

re:generation is 12-step discipleship through recovery. By working through these biblical steps within an authentic community, people have found freedom from substance abuse, codependency, pornography, eating disorders, depression, fear, control, emotional/physical abuse, same sex attraction, anger, obsessive thoughts, and many other personal struggles.

- re:generation meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday at CBC.
- Our hope is not in re:generation. Our hope is Jesus and the transforming power of the gospel. re:generation is simply a resource and process that the Holy Spirit uses.
- For more information on re:generation, go to cbcpa.org/support.

Recommended Reading:

- *Whiter Than Snow* by Paul David Tripp
- *Gospel Fluency* by Jeff Vanderstelt