

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, January 10, 2021
THIS IS NOT THE WAY OF THE CHURCH

Message Summary

This week, Pastor John Carter confronted the infiltration of sin in the Church. The unrest of this culture – the political, social and economic unrest – has caused the sin of pride to creep into the Church, because the Church has become divided over positions and opinions. This is not the way of the Church. Although we are commanded to go into this world and impact it with the word of God, we must be careful that the hungers and desires of this world do not infect the Church. Any influence or power the Lord gives to us must be handled with care. It is not to be used to support political opinions or personal gains. It is given to the Church to advance the Kingdom of God. In this season of unrest, the Church must repent and return to God's method for handling the problems of this world – *pray* for the world and trust God to move His agenda.

Pastor John Carter: *“Lord, forgive us for our sins – for elevating the love of the things of this world over the commands of Your word. We repent, Lord. This is not the way of the Church. Help us to return to You.”*

Key Scriptures

- [Romans 12:2 NLT] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- [1 John 2:15 NLT] Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.
- [Acts 3:19 NLT] Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Discussion Questions

1. What does repentance mean to you?
2. How do you repent?
3. What is the impact that repentance can have on your life?
4. What is the impact that our repentance can have on the world?
5. How should repentance change your behavior and your actions?

Life Application

This week as you study the key scriptures, examine your heart. Repentance begins by examining your heart in the quiet place. As you come before the Lord, ask Him to reveal to you and speak to you about the areas of your life where you might need to repent – for thoughts, feelings, words or actions that do not please Him. Repentance bows the heart low for correction and instruction. And repentance repositions your life for renewed revelation and freedom, largely because repentance saves you from the swift repercussions of sinful behaviors. “Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away” (Act 3:19 NLT). Repent and ask God to show you the change that must be made in your life right now.