



Lewiston Church of Christ

February 16, 2020

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718
Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson
Fellowship – Joe Bieren
Finance – Tom Hill
Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman
Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson
Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren
Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes
Music Ministry – Ron Roberson
Secretary – Renee' Hill
Technology – Eric Kjorness
Technology – Cody Dawes

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Chronic Complainers

Some people are hard to please. No matter how good they have it, they find the fly in the ointment. Others see a silver lining around all the clouds. Circumstances matter but the difference between positive and negative people is rarely found in their circumstances. Thus, a change in circumstances may not fix one who is cynical by choice.

Life is difficult. We all feel powerless at times. If your first impulse is to blame everyone and everything but yourself, you are probably a chronic complainer. Blamers and complainers run in lock-step. Positive people, by contrast, can take responsibility for their circumstances and emotions. If the shoe fits, they can even take some blame. You see, blaming others breeds a sense of fatalism (the opposite of hope) because we can do very little to fix others. Blaming ourselves, however, offers hope because we actually can work on ourselves. Self-justification feels good but it keeps us hopeless and upset as we shift the blame on others for our problems. Nothing helps us overcome a complaining spirit like hope.

Gossip and complaining come from the same bitter root. But keep in mind that they are choices and choices can be unchosen. If you can refrain from gossip and manage your anger, you can refrain from complaining.

Clearly, some people are wired for positivity and others for negativity. But there is hope. Human minds can be re-wired. It is called repentance. The New Testament Greek term for *repentance* is "**metanoia**" (literally, to change your mindset). It begins when we admit that our wiring is wrong! If your mind is centered on getting love and happiness, repentance can refocus you on giving love and happiness.

Repent! Take the blame for what is wrong with your life and turn to God for forgiveness and guidance going forward. Lose your complex high-minded excuses and humbly take hold of God's hand for good. This will unshackle your mind from the chains of cynicism to set you free to live and love under the bright light of hope.