

## Quick fixes do not work with Jesus

Dan Nelson - Pastor

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When something of value breaks, we usually try to fix it. Years ago, when my daughter, Karena, was little, she stood up on a black object in order to see over the back of the couch. She didn't realize that it was a music case, and that inside was my favorite guitar. Upon inspection, a crack soon emerged and my heart sunk. The damage made the instrument inoperable and something needed to be done.

This past year my oldest son has been spending a lot of time working on his car. With the expert help of a close friend, he has been investing most of his money and energy into his vehicle. But the farther he gets the more flaws he finds. And sometimes what seems to be a simple repair is often significantly more complicated.

There are so many times in our lives when a faulty product needs to be reconditioned or repaired, or a mechanical item requires routine maintenance. The problem is that we tend to approach Jesus that same way. We often want Jesus to do a simple diagnostic, assess the troubled areas of our lives, rectify the problem, and mend the damage. If possible, we want him to be like the 20-minute oil change and lube station. And when more work is necessary, we are usually willing to be in the shop for a longer period, but we don't want it to take more than three days nor be too costly. Is it any wonder that we often disconnect with Jesus' remedy?

When Jesus says you need to be born again, he eliminates the possibility of a tune-up to correct the issue (John 3, I Peter 1). We tend to underestimate the level of dysfunction and misunderstand its source. The Bible describes a necessary total transformation: a complete renewal of

the mind and heart (Romans 12). As though our spiritual cancer permeates every cell in our bodies, Jesus wants to grant us life by us first relinquishing our lives to him. The giver of life wants to be in control of our lives.

What's broken in your life today? The glue gun might work on some things, and the tools in the garage may help with others, but matters of the heart can only be rectified by Jesus: and he specializes in complete overhauls.

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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**Sunday Worship:**  
**9:00 & 10:45am**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

**Mid-Week Study:**  
**7:00pm Thursday**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View