



Loved by God – Sunday, August 5th

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10-11; 18-19

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.... God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. We love because he first loved us.

Romans 5:5

Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is given to us.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Sermon Quotes:

"Imagine a rare kind of gem that is dug from only one mine in the world. Wherever we see it, no matter who is wearing it or what cut and setting it has, we know where it has come from. And so it is with love. Wherever we see it truly expressed, we know that God, in his grace, is somehow the supplier."

- Joseph Dongell

“Fundamentally, whatever love we express to God and others is always and only the love we have already received from God.”

- Dongell

“Who am I?...I am one loved by Christ.”

- Thomas Merton

“While the imposter draws his identity from past achievement and the adulation of others, the true self claims identity in its belovedness.”

- Brennan Manning

“...the heart of it is this: to make the Lord and his immense love for you [the entire basis] of your personal worth. Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. God’s love for you and his choice of you constitute your worth. Accept that, and let it become the most important thing in your life.”

Sermon Points:

- Love PRECEDES action.
- Love’s ORIGIN is God, himself.
- If love is a gift from God, we must seek to RECEIVE it.
- Love poured out by God is a MIGHTY FORCE.
- The verb “shed abroad” literally means poured (or dumped) out.
- Profusion (output) can only be funded by infusion. “Love out” can only be funded by “love in.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever done the Ancestry.com deal and found out about your ancestors? If so, then share some of the fun facts you found out with your Group.
2. The theme of the Rooted series is “Love deep. Love well.” When you hear those words, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
3. In what ways, does “Love precede action?”
4. Why is it important to understand that love’s origin is God himself?
5. If love is a gift that must be received, then how do we receive that gift? (See John 1:12, Ephesians 3:14-21)
6. How would your life be different if God’s love and the fact that you are his beloved son or daughter became your identity?
7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
 - If you need help figuring out your “next steps,” including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email connect@covechurch.com.
 - Action Step: Consider praying Ephesians 3:14-21 for your Group members daily for the next week.