

# He Loves Me Series – Part 1

Fully Accepted

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Good morning. Today we are starting a brand-new series entitled “He Loves Me.” I’d like to encourage you if you would like to get the most out of this series to go ahead and pick up a copy of “Who I am in Christ” by Neal T. Anderson. We will be using this book as a reference as we go through this series. The book is laid out in a devotional format and so you can really dig into the content of the series and grow tremendously in your walk with God in just five or ten minutes each day.

This series is intended to search into the realities of who we are in Christ. At the core of who we are as children of God we are deeply loved by our father. Hopefully throughout this series we will expose some of the lies that we tend to believe about who we are as Christians so that the truth of God’s Word and our identity in him can wash us and bring healing and hope into the places that we so desperately need. Our desire is that by the end of this series each of us would be able to confidently say, ‘He Loves Me.’

Go ahead and say that with me. “He Loves Me.”

## 1.) There is power in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Physically Alive, Spiritually Dead

When we surrender our lives to Christ something happens. We have a new Identity.

### **Colossians 3:10-11 New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.**

That for those who are in Christ, we are given new life, and a new nature. It is a new self. Whatever we used to identify with before is gone. Nationality, religious background, and social status are not how we define ourselves any longer. We are now children of God.

Not only are we given new life, but we are given a new purpose.

### **1 Peter 2:9-10 New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his**

wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2 Corinthians may say it best:

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

The phrase new creation can also be translated, "That person is a new creation, or they are a new creature. "

Learning Our New Identity

I can take time to understand who we are in Christ, our calling, our specific purpose.

We were just studying with the students the word Sanctification.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:3**

<sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be sanctified:

### **Sanctify**

**1: to set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use : CONSECRATE**

**2: to free from sin : PURIFY**

**3: to impart or impute sacredness**

Have you ever thought of yourself like that?

I believe in order for us to confidently declare that "He Loves Me," we must understand first this important reality.

**2.) We are fully accepted by God.**

**John 6: 37b**

**...and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.**

I'd like you to turn in your bible to the gospel of Mark chapter 14. We have an interesting story.

### **Mark 14:3–9**

**<sup>3</sup> While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.**

Many scholars believe this was Mary the sister of Lazarus. Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus in the gospel of John chapter 11. This is a different Mary than Luke chapter 7. Mary Magdalene referred to as the sinful woman, who anointed Jesus feet and wiped them with her hair.

**<sup>4</sup> Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup> It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.**

Did you ever notice when you try to do something all of a sudden people you don't even know you will have to say something? Some of those were strangers, religious leaders, maybe even the disciples who represented the early church. They were indignity, rebuked her harshly, what a waste, they are criticizing her, judging her they are rejecting her. (Believe, Behave, Belong vs Belong, Believe, Behave)

It's the voices in the room.

Rejection is one of the most painful experiences known to humanity. All of us have experienced rejection in some way during our lifetime. Applying for a job and not getting it or getting a job and being let go. Asking to be a part of a friend group or a sports team only to be told no. Rejections has many faces, it can happen in many ways, but one thing is true. Rejection is one of the most painful experiences known to humanity. Few things cause more pain and few pains last as long as the pain of being rejected.

When we are rejected it makes us question our worth, and our value. We feel unwanted. We ask ourselves the question, "do I even matter? Does anybody love me? Could anybody love me"? We can give up or we can try to perform to be accepted.

Rejection is a powerful opponent. Once you have been rejected you tend to also reject others. You begin a cycle of shallow short relationships because you don't want to be rejected so you reject them first. Rejecting someone can feel empowering. It's a false sense of control, false sense of superiority. Sometimes we reject people without them even knowing. On the surface everything seems fine, you act normal, smile. But they better not try to get anywhere near your heart. And so, we live in a state of constant defense, keeping everyone at arm's length. We find ourselves tired and lonely.

After a while when you get really good at rejecting people when the spirit of rejection is fully developed within you, you start to reject yourself.

I believe that one of the major reasons we are not able to trust that there is a real power in the Gospel and that God truly accepts us is because at some point in our lives we were rejected, and we associate that rejection with God. We are in self-protection. Maybe it was a father or mother, or another authority figure. Spouse, sibling or friend. And we carry around with us a spirit of rejection, a spirit of abandonment or an orphan spirit.

We don't know what this woman was thinking when these people began to anoint Jesus. But we know what Jesus was thinking. (dinner with kids, cheesecake)

### **3.) I am defended.**

**<sup>6</sup>“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.<sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”**

Leave her alone, Jesus rebukes the voices in the room. Leave her alone, she is mine, I approve. What she is doing is a beautiful thing. She has value and worth. She is important to me. Leave her alone.

Not only will Jesus accept you he will also defend you. His voice of acceptance and approval will ring louder than any other voice in the room or in your life or in your head.

If we are to receive the power of the gospel, and trust that we are accepted by him. If we are to let him defend us, then we have to come to the places where we ask God, “what do you say? Who do you say I am? What do you say about my past, present, and future?”

I believe God wants to do business with us this morning, he wants to break off the spirit of rejection, spirit of abandonment, and the orphan spirit from our lives. He wants us to receive hope and healing in our hearts where there has been injury.

Closing Song (You Say)

What have others said about you? What have you believed about yourself... the voices in the room?