



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
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Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact. To get plugged in email: impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Being the Beloved (#1 of 3) March 19, 2017

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.
 - In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
 - How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God is asking us to lean into?
 - How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

- 2) What in Sunday's sermon resonated with you? What was significant and/or helpful?

- 3) When someone asks "Who you are?" what do you normally say? In what ways do you define yourself by what you do, what others say about you, and what you have? How does this impact your life?

- 4) Read Matthew 3:13-17. What stands out to you about Jesus' baptism?

- 5) Discuss God the Father's affirmation over Jesus? Why was this significant? Why is it important in light of Jesus' temptation by Satan in Matthew 4? In light of Jesus' ministry and the cross?

- 6) Read Romans 8:15-17. Review and discuss the points highlighted in the message in from this passage. Which truth is most significant for you and why?

- 7) Read Mark 10:38. In what way was the cross a form of baptism for Jesus? Why is this important and how is this connected to us "being the beloved"?

- 8) What difference does it make for you to know that in Christ, you are the beloved? What action steps is God asking you to take today?



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

Being the Beloved

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
March 19, 2017



How do you answer the question: Who am I?

1) I am what I do:

- Defining our lives this way makes us a slave to performance.

2) I am what others say about me:

- Defining our lives this way makes us a slave to popularity.

3) I am what I have:

- Defining our life this way makes us a slave to position & possessions.

"Aren't you, like me, hoping that some person, thing, or event will come along to give you that final feeling of inner well-being you desire? Don't you often hope: 'May this book, idea, course, trip, job, country or relationship fulfill my deepest desire.' But as long as you are waiting for that mysterious moment you will go on running helter-skelter, always anxious and restless, always lustful and angry, never fully satisfied. You know that this is the compulsiveness that keeps us going and busy, but at the same time makes us wonder whether we are getting anywhere in the long run. This is the way to spiritual exhaustion and burn-out. This is the way to spiritual death." — Henri J.M. Nouwen, Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World

Big Idea: You are who God says you are - You are the Beloved.

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

AMP "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased and delighted!"

God affirms Jesus as the Beloved:

- This affirmation divulges his identity.
- This affirmation is independent from performance.
- This affirmation involves the Trinity.
- This affirmation points to Christ's inheritance. Psalm 2:7-8
- This affirmation brings God glory. John 1:14

Romans 8:15-17 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

God affirms us as the Beloved:

- We are adopted as beloved sons and daughters.
- We are loved in spite of our performance. Romans 5:8
- We are blessed by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We are given an inheritance as co-heirs with Christ.
- We bring God glory when we live out our identity as the beloved.

You are the Beloved because Jesus was the Beloved.

Mark 10:38

Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved". Being the Beloved expresses the core truth of our existence." — Henri J.M. Nouwen, Life of the Beloved

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).