

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Overcoming Rejection

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
November 19, 2023



**We all experience the hurt that comes from rejection.**

- **Rejection is not the stronghold.**
- **Our reaction to the rejection determines whether we become bound by it.**
- **Rejection can be a cage or a catalyst.**

John 1:1-5 (NLT) In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT) The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup> I will **ble**ss those who bless you**** and curse those who treat you with contempt. **All the families on earth will be blessed through you.**”

Deuteronomy 7:6-11 (NLT) For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure. <sup>7</sup> “The Lord did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations!<sup>8</sup> Rather, it was simply that the Lord loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the Lord rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the **faithful God who keeps his covenant** for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. <sup>10</sup> But he does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, you must obey all these commands, decrees, and regulations I am giving you today.

Isaiah 49:14-16

Jeremiah 31:33-35

John 1:6-11 (NLT) God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.

- **Jesus identifies with us in our rejection and hurt.**
- **Jesus carried your rejection and hurt to the cross.**
- **Jesus was rejected so we can be accepted.**

John 1:12-14 (NLT) But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. <sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. **He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.** And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

*“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 Nouwen - The Life of the Beloved*

**Big Idea: Root yourself in God’s love to move from The Rejected to The Accepted.**

**What steps can you take to make this shift in your heart and mind?**

- **Acknowledge rejection & hurt.**
- **Allow Jesus to take your hurt.**
- **Ask God to reveal His love to you.**
- **Accept God’s love & live in & from it.**

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT) Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.” <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
**Family of Servants on Mission.**  
To get plugged in email:  
[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

### Overcoming Rejection

#6 of 10 - November 19, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Overcoming Addiction from Romans 6:4-23. How has God been speaking to you this week in this regard? What did you learn and apply this week?
- 2) Where have you experienced rejection that has led to hurt?
- 3) Read John 1:1-14. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 6) What do we learn about the identity of Jesus Christ from this passage? What characteristics of God do we see displayed in Christ?
- 7) What does it mean for us to be “accepted as God’s children” through faith in Christ? How does this impact the way you see the rejection and hurt you have experienced in your life?
- 8) What does it mean that Christ is “full of unfailing love and faithfulness” and full of “grace and truth”?
- 9) **Application:** In what ways do you struggle to see yourself as The Accepted in Christ? What steps do you need to take to make this shift in your heart and mind?
- 10) Take time to reflect and pray through Romans 8:35-39. Take time to pray for each other that you will experience God’s love in transformative ways.



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