

Gather together
to be poured out.



post-quarantine

THE CHURCH.

SERMON
SERIES

APRIL 10 -
MAY 23



WEEK SIX



AGAPE; BELOVED

READ LUKE 3:21-22;4:1-13

Knowing who you are and whose you are is crucial to our foundation as a Christians.

"You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased"

In this passage, Jesus is given the identity of "Beloved" from God the Father after his baptism. Soon thereafter, Jesus has an encounter with the devil in the wilderness. He is tempted to abandon his identity. Often, in our own walks with Jesus, the enemy attempts to strip us from our confidence. In doing so, we begin to question our identity.

Luke records this story with specific intentions—to highlight the beginning of Christ's three year ministry on Earth. Jesus began his ministry as "beloved." Luke uses the word "beloved" to convey that you and I are beloved in Christ. In the beginning of our ministries, in our past, in the present, regardless of our failures, we are loved.

"Knowing our identity as the beloved of God is never truly just for ourselves or our own purposes. It is so that we can be free from insecurities, feelings of inadequacy, guilt or shame, tendencies to compare ourselves to others...free of these so that we can direct our attention to being participants of God's restoration of this world. Knowing our true, God-given identity mobilizes us to enact love in the world because we know how deeply we are loved. Can you think of a relationship or scenario in your life that could be transformed by the freedom of knowing your true identity? Take this in prayer to God"- Shannon Coon.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE AND WHOSE YOU ARE

As you go this week, be mobilized by your belovedness to love those around you...with no expectation of getting love in return! Allow Jesus to continue to transform your heart from having an inward focus to outward focus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you think of a relationship or scenario in your life that could be transformed by the freedom of knowing your true identity? Take this to God in prayer.
- Do you see yourself as a “beloved” son or daughter of God?
- When you look at the three things the devil uses to try to tempt Jesus, what is at the core of the temptations?
- Share a story of a time this year where you have felt the enemy try to steal your identity. How have you felt about your personal identity and/or your purpose in life during this past year of the pandemic?

PRAAYER

- Take this time to pray for your group members. What are some specific things you need prayer for?
- How can you remind your church family of the unconditional love of God?



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***WE LOVE BECAUSE HE
FIRST LOVED US.***

1 JOHN 4:19

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ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

