

SERMON SERIES: Living as Loved

SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer

DATE: August 18, 2024

Sermon Title

“His Love Gives New Life”

Introduction

This week we continued our series “Living as Loved”, focusing on what our lives would look like if we lived like we are loved by God. Our homes, schools, neighborhoods, jobs, and relationships would all look different, and our lives are changed when we know that we are loved. Over the course of the next 5 weeks, we are going to look at five truths about the love of God that affects our lives. This week, our focus is on the love of God giving us *new life*.

- What is one thing that you do daily that you feel keeps you grounded or connected in your life? (e.g. morning coffee, exercise, etc.)

Seek the Word

- Read John 15:1-11
- What does Jesus mean when he says “I am the vine, you are the branches? What does this imagery mean in regards to your relationship with Jesus?
- What “nutrients” do you think are essential for staying connected to Jesus and bearing good fruit?
- In this passage, Jesus talks a lot about us remaining (abiding) in Him, and Him remaining/abiding in us (11 times!). What does it mean to remain in Jesus in your daily life?

Go Deeper

Scott talked to us about a “Rule of Life” to implement in our way of thinking and living. More than just simple “rules for living”, a Rule of Life is a practice of intentionally staying more connected to Jesus through daily rhythms. Take some time to think about a spiritual discipline that you want to focus on this week (prayer, worship, service, Scripture reading). Write down a specific time for each day that you can dedicate to this discipline in order to grow in connection to Jesus.

Talk About It

- Sometimes, we feel disconnected from the vine. What areas in your life do you feel the most disconnected from Jesus, and why do you think that is?
- Who do you have in your life that keeps you accountable to your connection to Jesus?
 - What about that person makes them good at this?
 - If you don’t have that person, why not? Who could you ask to be that person?

- Our rhythms here at Calvary are: Gather, Connect, Serve, Share, and Give. These are things that we build in our life to grow in deep connection with Jesus. Which of these rhythms do you feel God is calling you to invest in on a deeper level?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Becoming the person that God has called you to be does not come about from nowhere. Fruit does not grow on trees or vines by happenstance. It takes the right soil, the right nutrients, healthy trunks and vines connected to branches in order to produce good fruit. And as Jesus is the vine, we are called to be healthy branches that produce good fruit. Our connection to Jesus, continually growing deeper and deeper, will lead to bearing good fruit and living like the person God has called you to be.

Challenge: As you look at developing your “Rule of Life” and implementing intentional spiritual disciplines to grow more connected to Jesus, make this your daily prayer. “Jesus, what do you want me to do today? Help me see places and ways that I can grow in deeper connection to you and bear good fruit. Thank you for your love that gives us new life.”

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. – John 15:9-12