

SERMON SERIES: Living as Loved

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Sermon Title

“His Love Will Reunite Us”

Introduction

This week we finished 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. This week, our focus is on the love of God reuniting us. The love of God reunites us with loved ones we have lost; the love of God reunites us with the rest of the church; the love of God reunites us with Him, for eternity.

- When you think of what heaven will be like, what comes to mind?

Seek the Word

- Read Matthew 22:1-14
 - Describe what is going on in this parable. Who are the major characters and what happens to the people?
 - Now insert yourself, God, Jesus, and others in the world into this story. Where do you see all those different people?
 - What does this parable challenge us to do in our temporary human lives that impacts the eternal Kingdom of God?
- Read John 14:2-3
 - What does Jesus’ promise to prepare a place for you in heaven mean to you personally? How does that impact your view on life, death, and heaven?
- Read Revelation 21:1-8
 - What thoughts and emotions are evoked from this writing from John? Identify a key verse or phrase that gives you hope.
 - Who is someone that needs to feel that same hope? How can you share that with them?

Go Deeper

Read Philippians 3:20-21. Paul uses very vivid language for the Philippian church, saying that the church is a “colony of heaven”. Philippi was a very Roman place, almost a mini-Rome in how the city looked, felt, and operated. The people there were incredibly patriotic for their empire. But Paul wanted to remind them that they needed to live set apart, as a “colony of heaven”. Take a look at your life and the world around you. What would it look like if you, your group, Calvary, and the American church at large lived more like a “colony of heaven”?

Talk About It

- How often does the eternity of heaven impact the way that you go about your day to day? What would it look like if it played a more prevalent role in the way you treat people?
- We all have someone in our life that we are excited to see in heaven. But we also all have that one person (or multiple) that maybe we don't expect to see there. Maybe it is because of the way they treated you, or how you treated them, or even how they live their day to day life. Think about that person, and think about what it would be like if you saw them in heaven. How does/should that influence how you engage with them here on earth?
- Think through this series as a whole. 5 different weeks, 5 different points, yet all focused on the same thing... Living as Loved. Thinking through everything that we have talked about and learned, what does it mean to *Live as Loved* by God?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Everyone is presented with the message, promise, and love of Jesus. The invitation to eternal life is open for all people. But there will be some who receive it and some who reject it. Take a look at your own life and see where your heart is at. Have you truly received the invitation from Jesus, or have you been living as rejecting it? Then look outward to the people around you. See the people who have received the invitation, and love them well. See the people who have rejected the invitation, and love them even better.

Challenge: Each morning, read Revelation 21:1-5. Take time to pray over the text and the promise that God offers in that passage. Then, dwell on that throughout your day, and let it influence the way that you love the people around you.