



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness

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Saturday, July 15, 2023

Scripture: 1 John 3:1, 16 / Colossians 1:13-14

TITLE: Embracing Your Redemption

Unlovable. Unforgivable. Unworthy. These are the words many people use to describe themselves. Have you ever felt this way? If so, you're truly not alone.

Why would someone feel this way? Well, maybe someone told them this. Maybe an abusive parent told a child they were unworthy of love. Maybe they feel unforgivable because they've sinned so greatly against someone. Maybe they feel unworthy of love or forgiveness because they've made a mess of their lives and feel there's no hope for a future.

Whatever the reasons are, the Bible tells us a different story.

Over the past week, we've looked at the story of mankind. We've discovered our origins. We discovered that we are spiritual, forgetful, relational, and sinful beings. And you see, our sin makes us feel unlovable and unredeemable. But thankfully, that's not true. We are redeemable.

If you feel stuck and unworthy of redemption, listen to this from 1 John 3:1 (NLT),

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

John continues in verse 16 (ESV):

By this, we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Think about this. According to the Bible, we are born sinful. We are born enemies of God. Paul would say we were spiritually dead. We didn't seek after God. We didn't want God. Our sin is what prompted Christ to die. But God, in His mercy and grace, sent Jesus to die for us.

Humanly speaking, we are unlovable and unworthy of redemption, but God loves His special Creation. That's why Christ came: To seek and save the lost - you and me.

Paul writes in Colossians 1:13-14:

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Paul says we were rescued. Just like a child drowning in the water, Jesus reached down into the water and pulled us back to shore and says, "Live!" Paul also says when He rescued us, He

actually purchased our freedom. Other versions say “redeemed.” It means to pay a ransom or be freed from slavery.

God loves us so much He sent His son to die on a cross, so we might be rescued from our slavery to sin. We were freed from slavery to sin, to become children of the King.

Friend, listen to me. I don't care what you've done. I don't care who you have hurt. I don't care what situation or hurdles you are facing today. You are free. You are loved. You are forever God's child. You are loved. You are forgiven. You are redeemed.

So here is my challenge for you today. Say this out loud: God loves me. God rescued me. God redeemed me.

You see, when you believe this, no situation is hopeless. No future is without promise.

So declare you're loved. Believe you're forgiven. And live as a person redeemed by the King.