

Beloved Week 3

Being Beloved

Pastor Kaye Kolde

1. How does your own experience with family, especially your parents, make it more challenging or help you to better understand God's love for you as a Father and to know what it means to be his beloved?
2. Read 1 John 3:1-3. What is the source or cause of our belovedness, and how can that give you confidence? Read also Luke 3:21-22 or Romans 8:1-7.
3. Read v. 4-6. List all the benefits of being a child of God that you can think of, and celebrate! Read also 1 Peter 1:3-5 and discuss what you learn about God and what you learn about people.
Why does our identity guarantee a different future according to John?
4. Read 1 John 3:7-10. What seems to be confusing about what John is saying here? How can you understand it within the bigger picture of what we've learned about our assurance in this letter? How should our identity correspond with our heart change?
5. Read 1 John 3:11-15. How does life in Christ actually up the expectation compared to the Law? Read also Matthew 5:21-22 and consider the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5.
6. Read 1 John 3:16-23 out loud as a group then silently as individuals, and note what the Spirit draws your attention to, then discuss those insights or questions.
7. As a group pray a blessing over each person that agrees with who God says they are. If you are not sure how to do this, look up scriptures about God's love and pray for them personalizing with their name or "you." (ie. 1 Jn. 3:1, Rom. 8:15, Jn. 15:9-11)
“To give someone a blessing is the most significant affirmation we can offer. It is more than a word of praise or appreciation; it is more than pointing out

someone's talents or good deeds; it is more than putting someone in the light.
To give a blessing is to affirm, to say 'yes' to a person's Belovedness."

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, **Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**