



December 21, 2025

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Colossians 1:13-14

Introduction:

This week we explored God's redeeming love - He is the God who rescues us and redeems us. Ever since the fall in Genesis 3, we see that Satan's deception is not one of legal accusation, but one that convinces us to distrust God's love for us. As a result, in our human longing for significance, acceptance, and belonging, we turn to lesser, more temporal things. God, in His mercy, restores us to relationship with Him and heals the false narratives we have believed about Him and about ourselves. He affirms His love for us, invites us to participate in the very relationship of the Trinity, and shows us through His Word and the Holy Spirit how to be truly human again.

Key Texts: Colossians 1:13-14, John 14:15-23, John 15:9-13

Icebreaker: What are some of the things that help you build trust and deeper relationships with others?

Discussion Questions

1. Kevin mentioned that we are all like newborn children searching for a face to love us. How does this image resonate with your own experience of seeking love and acceptance?
2. In Genesis 3, Satan sought to chip away at the relationship between Adam and Eve and God by planting relational discord. The serpent didn't bring a legal accusation, but convinced Adam and Eve they couldn't trust God's love. What lies about God's love are you sometimes tempted to believe?
3. Read **Colossians 1:13-14** as a group. Paul wrote about rescue and redemption to the church, even though these seem like familiar concepts. Why do you think even mature believers need to be reminded of these truths?
4. Re-visit **John 14:15-23**. Jesus said "I will not leave you as orphans" and promised to make His home with us. How does this intimate language about God's presence challenge or comfort you?

5. Read **Exodus 6:6-7**. God spoke these words to His people before He had even given them the Ten Commandments. Kevin reminded us that God's commands are not ways to earn love, but ways to 'be human again.' They are reminders of what we were truly created for — to participate in the very life of the Trinity. How might this change how you view obedience and spiritual disciplines?
6. The sermon emphasized bringing our whole selves - including shame, weakness, and sin - to God rather than just our presentable parts. What would it look like for you to intentionally hold space to bring these parts of yourself to God, and to even open up to community (Biblical counseling, this community group, therapy) to receive His healing?
7. The three practical steps mentioned were: remain in God's love (fixing your gaze on the One who sees you as His beloved), repent (changing your mind and realigning with Him and His truths), and release lies (letting go of the lies, false narratives, and shame we have been carrying). Which of these feels most challenging for you right now, and why?

Key Takeaways

- The experiences and narratives we hold (about God, about ourselves) give shape to who we are becoming.
- God is love — this is the truest thing about God. We are recipients of God's love - this is the truest thing about us, the most central piece of our identity.
- We were created with eternity in our hearts. We are all grasping and longing to feel loved, settled, and satisfied. When we settle for lesser desires or seek to replace God's love with temporal things, we will never be satisfied.
- God is not a punitive God waiting for us to mess up - He wants to heal us and restore relationship with us.
- God's laws are not means to earn His love or to become "lovable enough" - He shows us what it means to be human, and what it means to live as a people of God. Furthermore, He has given us His Holy Spirit to help us and to guide us into all truth.

Notes