

# Beloved

## **Beloved: Characteristics of A Beloved Community**

*February 20th & 21st*

**Speaker:** Pastor Joshua Symonette

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:12-17

### **Series Overview**

“This is the marvel of marvels,” said C.S. Lewis, “that he called me Beloved.” We are beloved by God. His love is where we find our identity, our security, our authority. Then, and only then, can we become what Dr. King called the beloved community. We lead with love - we love because He first loved us.

### **Series Discussion Questions**

What does it mean to be a beloved community?

### **Message Overview**

Many years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described his longing for a beloved community. It was not something he created or came up with on his own. It was what he read throughout the Gospels and reflected in his pursuit to bridge a segregated America. God's beloved is what he calls those who are submitted to him wholeheartedly. The Apostle Paul, repeatedly in his writings to the early Church, both encourages and clarifies for them what it means to be God's beloved.

### **Message-Specific Discussion Questions**

**How would you define the word beloved?**

Pastor Joshua illustrated a picture of a beloved community using the ingredients of a salad. Each component of a salad, often very distinct in their flavors, are tossed together to create an unique experience. When a diverse group of people come to the table with a unified goal, **how is that community impactful to those around?**

Pastor Joshua stated that: “We are to be a reflection of Jesus, and play an active part of exemplifying His love.” **What are some ways that you can call out the reflections of Jesus in your community?**

Read Colossians 3:12-17. This passage begins by describing us as God's chosen people and ends with a push to respond in gratitude. **What are some ways that we can practice gratitude towards God in this season of life?**

Pastor Joshua shared a story of a Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, who sacrificed his chance of winning a cross country race in 2012 to help his Kenyan competitor, Abel Mutai, to the finish line. Check out the full story [here](#). Jesus crucifixion is an expression of His ideals of a beloved community. **In a world that values the individual winning at all cost, how are you following in the footsteps of Jesus to bring about his ideals surrounding the community?**

## Practical Application

- At the close of service, Joel Buckner sung the Black National Anthem, **Lift Every Voice and Sing**, written & composed by the Johnson brothers (James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson) in 1900. During the Civil Rights Movement, this song became the rally cry for so many people within the movement. As a group, **dive into the beauty behind the poem/song/anthem: [www.cnn.com/](http://www.cnn.com/).**

After listening and diving into the context surrounding this song, **What lines resonate the most with you? Why?**

- [NCC Daily](#) continues this week covering our Beloved series.** Join us Monday through Friday as we dig deeper throughout this season of Lent.
- Climb the stairs to the **[Upper Zoom](#)** each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. We'll come together as a community to start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. **Register at [ncc.re/UpperZoom](http://ncc.re/UpperZoom).**
- If you're not already connected to a group, now's the perfect time. NCC Groups Spring Semester launched last week, and all of our groups are available to browse on our website at [ncc.re/groups](http://ncc.re/groups). Find a group today!