

Becoming Centers of Forgiveness and Peace

Session 5: Love Is the Context for Telling and Naming

October 10, 2022 • Rev. Doug Gray

I. Introductions and Opening Prayer

II. Teaser

Can you name a famous fictional or cartoon hero? What makes them memorable?

III. The Biblical View from Here: Covenant

- a. OT Examples
 - i. Noah (Gen. 9:16–17)
 - ii. Abraham (Gen. 12:1–3)
 - iii. Moses (Ex. 20:1–17)
 - iv. David (2 Sam. 7)Sum: Brueggeman and the “Royal Consciousness”
- b. NT Example
 - i. The Lord’s Supper (Mark 14:22–25)
 - ii. The Spirit in the Church (Luke 24:45–49)The Spirit is the corrective to the Church’s pride
- c. What’s a covenant?
 - i. Agreement or promise
 - ii. Establishes a relationship
 - iii. Outlasts failure by one side or another

IV. Words to Watch for

- a. Word (*logos*) — expression, rationality; in Christian context, can mean scripture (Word of God), preaching (applying the Word of God), or Jesus (the Word made flesh). See John 1:1–14
- b. Life (*zoe*) — In Greek, there are two words for life: *bios* (organic, physical, as in *biology*) and *zoe* (spiritual or abundant or eternal life, as in *zoology*). In John, “eternal life” (lit, *abundant life for the ages*) is a stand-in for “Kingdom of God/Heaven.”
- c. Fellowship (*koinonia*) — also communion, participation, sharing
- d. Joy (*chara*) — in the same word family as grace (*charis*), and gift (*charisma*)
- e. Complete (*pleroo*) — also *full*, as in plural
- f. Righteousness (*dikaiosune*) — right/good relationship with God and the things that contribute to it. Unrighteousness (*adikia*) is the opposite.

V. God Tells His Story and Names His Hurt— Jeremiah 5:1–8

VI. God Loves Us — Safe to Tell Our Story and Name Our Hurt — 1 John 1:1–10

VII. Conclusion

Telling our story and naming our hurt is the only way to find healing