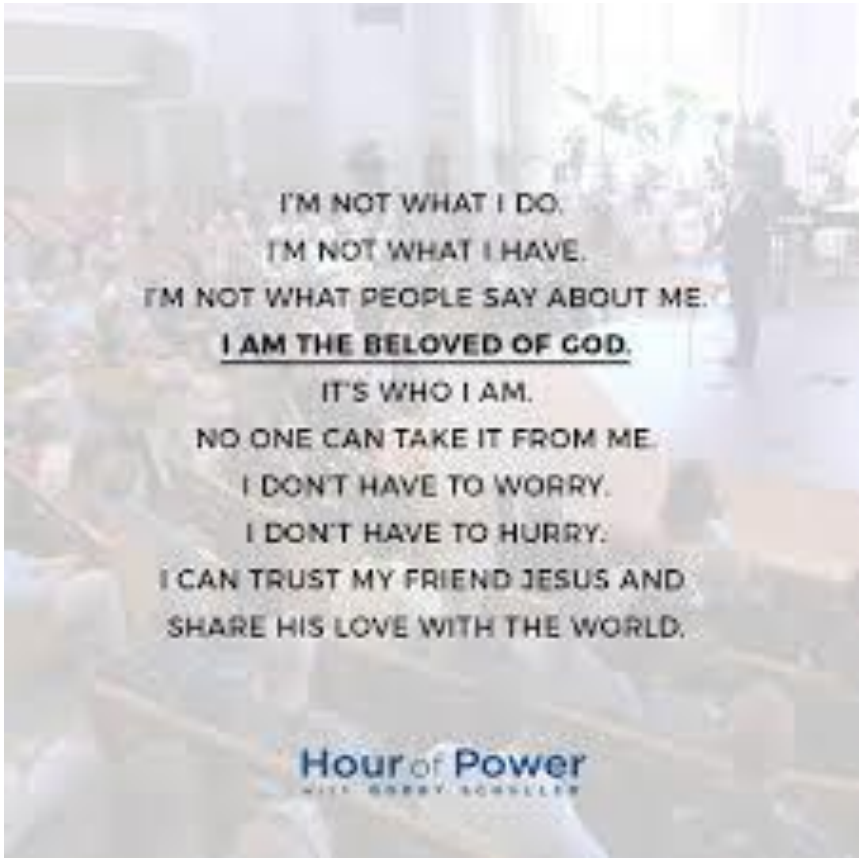
Creed of the Beloved



June 14, 2020
Living in the Ocean of God's Grace
"Known Completely and Loved Deeply"

I. You are Valuable and Wanted Just as You Are

1. **The world pushes us to seek approval by what we do and what we have and what our peers say about us.**

   Truth: You are loved by God as you are.

2. **Your True Identity is "Child of God."**

II. Shame Leads to Death

1. **Pretending, hiding hidden addictions.**

2. **Jesus = Unconditional Love and Acceptance**
   Matthew 9:9-13 (TEV)

   9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named
   Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me
   and be my disciple," Jesus
   said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.
   10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his
   home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors
   and other disreputable sinners. 11 But when the
   Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does
   your teacher eat with such scum?"
   12 When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people
   don't need a doctor—sick people do." 13 Then he
   added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture:
   'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'] For I
   have come to call not those who think they are
   righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

3. **Jesus gave dignity to people before fixing them.**

4. **God's love is the antidote to shame.**

Bobby Schuller, son of Robert Schuller, famous for *"Hour of Power"* and *"Possibility Thinking"* wrote this personal creed we all ought to use.

Creed of the Beloved

I'm not what I do,
I'm not what I have.
I'm not what people say about me.
I am the beloved of God.
It's who I am.
No one can take it from me.
I don't have to worry.
I don't have to hurry.
I can trust my friend Jesus
and share His love with the world.

Small Group Questions

Questions 1: What are the things that make you feel good about yourself? Make a lit. How important is what people think, good or bad, about you?

Question 2: Most of us have a "substance." Good things we make bad by using then to escape our feelings of emptiness. (Overeating, sleeping, workaholism, TV, shopping, etc.). How do you escape?

Question 3: Jesus was always risking his reputation by knowing and accepting social outcasts. In what ways does Union Church and you in a volunteer role model this kind of behavior? Share a story.

Question 4: How has God reached you and improved your self-worth through the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels? Share with you favorite *"Jesus Story."*