

*His Own*I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Dismiss Elementary Kids to go join Calvary Kids. *Welcome those joining us online.*
- B. Brief reminder: MOMS, R&R, Men's Ministry are beginning in a couple weeks- sign up online. *And Wong's Donuts Sat Night for purchase :) [join us Sat Eve/Sun AM]*
- C. Slide2 *Flannery O'Connor*, the famous *southern writer*, at 20 yrs old, was studying writing in Iowa, and she wanted to deepen her prayer life. *She had to. She wrote...*
1. *Dear God, I cannot love the the way I want to. **You are** the slim crescent of the moon that I see and **my self** is the earth's shadow that keeps me from seeing all the moon... What I am afraid of, dear God, is that **my self shadow** will grow so large that it blocks the whole moon, and that I will judge myself by the shadow that is nothing. I do not know you God because **I am in the way.***
- D. **Prayer:** God, we don't want to speak towards You **but** with You. - *We realize when we fail to pray it's **not breaking a rule**, it's a failure to **treat You as God**. It's a **sin against Your glory.***

II. **Intro:**

- A. February of my senior year I worked up the guts to ask *a cute little cheerleader to go out with me on a date*. She said yes. We hit it off, we had fun, and I told my best friend, *if she never goes out with me again, it was the greatest night of my life.*
1. She did go out with me again, but she said, ***we just can't tell anybody yet.*** That broke my little 17 yr old heart. I understood, as she explained she had just broken up with a 3 yr relationship.
 2. I dreamed of a day when I could tell everyone, and I couldn't wait until she was mine. When the relationship would move from *"going around"* to *"going steady"*, to being *"mine"*. When the relationship would go from the possibility of *seeing others*, to being *exclusive* to each other.

3. Well it happened soon after that. *And we're still going steady!* Ha! [37+5 yrs]

a) It fully was *a Relationship Upgrade*.

b) It's what Kelly shared in SoS 2:16 (the Shulamite) *My beloved is mine, and I am his.*

And then in 6:3 *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.* [He's mine & I'm his.

Then, I'm his & he's mine]

B. God desires an Exclusive relationship with you. Jer.30:22 *You will be my people, and I will be your God.* A Relationship Upgrade!

1. 1 Pet. 2:9 esv *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.*

III. Slide3 **DIVINE CARE** (Is. 43:1-3a) [unique relationship]

A. Is.43:1-3a,4a *nlt But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3a For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... 4a Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you..."*

B. **I created you** (ownership) - **I formed you** (*lit.* through the squeezing into shape, normally w/*pottery*).

1. What state of firmness/softness have you been in His hands lately?

2. Would you like it better if He left you alone to be shapeless?

C. **I redeemed you** (purchased, bought out of slavery).

D. **I called you by name** (that's very personal, *His covenant people*).

E. **You are mine** (exclusive) - (girlfriend/boyfriend – when this is expressed for the 1st time)

F. **I will be w/you** (security) **not overflow/overwhelm you** (*water/river*),

G. **You shall not be burned/consumed** (*fire*) care & concern.

1. Seems to assume that **you will** go through these. But the emphasis is on *through*. Spurgeon, *I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop.*
 2. **Caution:** don't expect God to open the paths before you come to them... that's not how He works.
 - a) Neither does He provide help before help is needed.
 - b) Neither does He remove obstacles before we reach them.
 - c) Neither does He clear many miles of road ahead before us.
 - d) **But** He promises to do it step by step. *His hand is outstretched.*
 3. You cannot have *dying grace* before your time to *die*. Right now you fully need *living grace*, you'll receive *dying grace* when that time comes.
- H.(4) **precious, honored, I have loved you** (tender feelings expressed).

IV. Slide4 **WE ALL LONG...TO BELONG**

A. Rom. 14:8 *nlt* *If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

V. Slide5 **HIS OWN** [it's not just for OT Jews]

- A. John 13:1 *esv* *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own** who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.***
- B. John 10:1-4 *nkjv* *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls **his own sheep** by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out **his own sheep**, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

VI. Slide6 **GIVEN**

A. John 17:6,9-12 *esv* 6 *I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

VII.Slide7 SEALED/HIS OWN

A. Eph.1:13,14 *esv* *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.* [NLT *And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago*]

B. This verse outlines *the way of salvation* [note: *heard, believed, sealed*]

1. The sinner **hears** the Word of Truth, **believes/trusts** in Christ, receives the Holy Spirit, **and** is **sealed** forever.
2. He becomes *a special seal* on our heart **at the moment of our salvation.**

C. **Sealed** - (Logos/sense) *To be or become designated and made secure as a sign of authentication.*

1. *Seals were used as a guarantee indicating not only ownership but also to guarantee the correctness of the contents.* (LKGNT)

D. **Sealed** - used only **15x's** in the NT [It was an indelible mark, representing a promise] **3 meanings** in the NT...

1. **To seal shut** (eg. the tomb).
2. **A sign of authenticity** (the seal (on the tomb) authenticity was Rome).

3. **Being protected** (144,000 sealed/protected from harm from the wrath coming on the world).

a) I think all 3 can refer to us. The HS *hermetically seals us shut*...He seals us in faith *and* seals out unbelief/apostasy. The HS **owns us**...if we have the HS we are sealed w/God's trademark, *real & authentic*. The HS **protects us**...*and nobody can break Gods seal*.

4. **A true believer, losing their salvation? How? *The seal, that is sealed on our soul, is an indelible mark that reads...Child of God.***

E. **Wrap Up:**

F. When I hear that ***I am His Own***, I hear: *ownership* (you were bought w/a price), *possession, election/selection, chosen, value, worth, that I belong!*

1. **He's the boss of me. He's the Captain of my ship.** [I'm the captain now! *but not as creepy as the guy in Captain Phillips, Barkhad Abdi*]

G. **Don't try to date God.** He's looking for a marriage/commitment, He's looking for *an Exclusive Relationship*.