

Galentine's Day at House of the Gospel



On Friday, February 11, 2022, over one hundred ladies of all ages, gathered to celebrate Galentine's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the friendships between women. The church was packed and even two more tables had to be set up to accommodate everyone. House of the Gospel has been doing these types of women's events for the last 10 years, but for some reason, Galentine's Day brings the most ladies into the church. The goal of these women's events is to unite different generations of ladies at the church, invite people from outside the church, and ultimately share the love of Jesus with everyone.

Galentine's Day started off with a nice dinner, where ladies could eat, meet their table mates through some conversations starters, and also make a craft. This allowed ladies to feel more comfortable and relaxed. Then the ladies engaged in some icebreaker activities, where they got to say hello to many different people around the room. After that, the worship team led the worship to allow the ladies to prepare their hearts for the message from Nicole Gorban.

The topic for the message was about love, which went right along with the theme for the night. The world today has so many different understandings of love, which causes people to be confused about what love really is. Even in the church, people struggle with understanding love, especially God's love, and as a result, live a life opposite of what God had intended for them. Because God is love (1 John 4:8) and to not understand or accept His love is to not understand or accept God himself. That's a strong statement, but in reality, many people struggle with understanding God's love, partly because of human nature and partly because the enemy is hard at work to deceive, causing people to doubt God's goodness and love.

Nicole read the story about the woman caught in adultery from John 8:1-11, to demonstrate God's extravagant love for people. This Biblical illustration sheds light on two hearts of people: the heart of a woman – sin exposed and heart humble versus the hearts of the pharisees – sin hidden and heart proud. The woman walked away forgiven and transformed, while the pharisees walked away still carrying their sin and not transformed. Nicole shared her own story of being a pharisee, carrying a hidden sin from her past, praying it away, but not being able to bring it to the light and expose it so Jesus can use it for His glory. When she finally did, God showed her overwhelming grace and love, like He did for this woman caught in adultery, and she was able to leave her life of sin. A little over a year ago, she wrote a book called [*Grace Over Shame*](#), which goes into more detail about her spiritual journey in understanding God's love.

The main point of the message on Galentine's Day that night was that Jesus calls Christians to live in the light, expose sin, so the enemy has no foothold (1 John 1:7). Instead of hiding sin, and living in shame, pretending not to have sin, but rather acknowledge that the struggle with sin is there as Apostle Paul writes in Romans 7:15, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do," and accept the love God has available for His children. Why? Because there's healing in confession, as James 5:16 says, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed." And when Christians live healed, they can be the bridge to bring healing to the world around them. After the message, the ladies had a chance to go around their table and share some of the things God is recovering them from and struggles they are facing with sin, acknowledging their need for God, and accepting the love He has for them. Praise God for his amazing love and grace!