

# “You Are Called to Belong”

Live Your Calling: *What On Earth Am I Here For?* – Part 3

You are first **called you to be loved**. And then you love God in return which is **worship**. Anything that you do that is **pleasing to God** is a form of **worship**. Today we will look at you are **called to belong** and to **belong to God’s church** which will **last forever**.

“God is the one who made all things, and all things are for his glory. **He wanted to have many children** share his glory...” Heb. 2:10 (NCV)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> PURPOSE of my life is that **God formed me for His family**

“His unchanging plan has always been to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.” Eph. 1:5 (NLT)

God’s family is called **His church**

“I am writing to you... so you will know **how to live in the family of God**. That **family** is the **church** of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.” 1 Tim. 3:14-15 (NCV)

I am **called to belong to God’s church**

“So now you are **no longer visitors or strangers**. Now you are **citizens together** with God’s holy people. **You belong to God’s family**.” Eph. 2:19 (ICB)

“You are among those who have been **called to belong** to Jesus Christ Rom. 1:6 (NLT)

“ECCLESIA” (church) = “**THE CALLED OUT**” Church is **not an event** you attend. Church is a **group you belong to**. Church is about a **relationship** with God thru Jesus. Church is also a **relationship, connection, and covenant** with **other** believers and followers of **Jesus**. **God constructed** the church to meet **your 5 deepest needs**.

**5 BENEFITS OF BELONGING** (5 Bible Metaphors)

## 1. IN GOD’S FAMILY: **I learn my true identity.**

“You are members of God’s very own family... and **YOU BELONG** in God’s household with every other Christian.” Eph. 2:19 (LB)

“Jesus and the people he makes holy **all belong to the same family**. That is why he isn’t ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.” Heb. 2:11 (CEV)

**Logos and people do not** determine our **identity**. Our **sins are not our identity**. **God made** us with **the hope** we would join His family, **our identity** should be found **in God alone**.

## 2. IN GOD’S TEMPLE: **I am supported by other believers.** (see 1 Cor. 3:16)

“In Christ the whole building is **joined together** and rises to become **a holy temple** in the Lord. And in him you too are **being built together** to become **a dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit.” Eph. 2:21-22 (NIV)

“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.” Rom. 1:12 (NCV)

We are to be a **building constructed by God** where **each person is connected for strength**.

## 3. IN CHRIST’S BODY: **I discover my unique value.**

“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with **Christ’s Body**. We are all parts of it, and **it takes every one of us** to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So **we belong to each other**, and **each of us needs all the others**.” Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

“If your foot says, ‘I’m not a part of the body because I’m not a hand,’ that doesn’t make it any less a part of the body. And if your ear says, ‘I’m not part of the body because I’m only an ear and not an eye,’ would that make it any less a part of the body?” 1 Cor. 12:15-16 (NLT)

“In Christ’s Body **we’re all connected to each other**.” Eph. 4:25 (MSG)

## 4. IN GOD’S FLOCK: **I am protected and cared for.**

God has placed in every church **two kinds** of people to care for you...

“**Take care of God’s flock**, his people, that you are responsible for. **Watch over them** because you want to, not because you are forced to do it.” 1 Pet. 5:2/Heb. 13:17

- **Your pastor** / “Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2 (NLT)
- **Your small group** / “Encourage each other and give each other strength.” 1 Thes. 5:11 (NCV)

## 5. IN GOD’S GARDEN: **My life becomes productive.**

“A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be **fruitful** apart from me. I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. But apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:4-5 (NLT)

You have 5 basic needs in your life:

- **Identity** - Power to live on
- **Stability** - People to live with
- **Capacity** - Principles to live by
- **Security** - Plan to live out
- **Productivity** - Purpose to live for

If **you’re not connected** to this church by membership, what is keeping you from that? And if **you are connected** with the church let it be **your prayer** that you **fall in love with it again**. The church (*the people of God empowered by God*) is **the hope of the world**. It is the **only thing** on earth **that will last forever!** God **created** you and He **wants you** to be a **part of His church**.