

Living Your Calling – Part 3 YOU ARE CALLED TO BELONG

"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

The second purpose of my life: I belong to God

"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ." Eph. 1:5

God's family is called the 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'm called to belong to his 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"

THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING

5 Biblical 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)

2. In God's temple I'm supported by others

"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)

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)

4. In God's flock I'm protected and I'm cared for

"Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2 (NLT)

"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)