



You Belong

Key idea:

When a person is in Christ they are admitted into the body of Christ, a world wide community of faith. The next and most important step is to become a member of a local body!

Key text:

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 5:1-2

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve.

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.

Key points:

1. 1 Peter 2:9-10 tells us that we are chosen and set apart by God's special possession.
2. 1 Peter 2:9-10 teaches us that we were called out unto him and we are now his people and a part of the universal church.
3. 1 Peter 5:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 1:2 both show us that the design of the early church and current church is to be part of a local body.

4. We are to be active and fully committed to our local body. It is of the utmost importance for both ourselves and the local church.
5. When we are part of the local church we are chosen to worship, witness to, and walk with Jesus.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Have I asked Christ into my life and am certain that I am a part of his universal church?
3. Am I actively seeking out ways to serve in my local body?
4. Do I understand that it is my responsibility to worship, witness to, and walk with Jesus. Why?
5. Am I tempted to just let others take care of things and not get involved?
6. Am I so involved in serving that I am missing times of fellowship and worship?
7. Do I understand why the local church is an important part of my Christian walk? If yes, list some of the ways I have been impacted by a local church and share them with other believers.
8. Is it possible for us as human beings to love the church the same way that Jesus did, does, and will?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?