

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 in his glory” Hebrews 2:10 (NCV)

THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING

5 Bible Metaphors

God made you to be loved by Him. But God did not made you just to know and love Him, He also made you to know and love His family—the Church. The word for “church” in the Bible is the Greek word *ecclesia*. It comes from the word *kaleo* which means “called.” We’ve talked about five callings on your life. *Ecclesia* means you’re called out. So the word “church” literally means the group of people who are called by God. The called out. *Ecclesia*. Called by God. Christianity is based on God’s Word and God’s Word says the church is the called out. In other words church isn’t an event. It isn’t a program. It isn’t a building. If I asked most people, “What do you think church is?” They’d think of a building. Or they think it’s something you go to—“I’m going to church.” Church is not something you go to. Church is something you *belong* to. It is not an event and it’s not a location. Church is a relationship. We worship here, we have a place here. But the church is the people of God. It’s our relationship. Because God designed his family, the church, to meet your five deepest needs. In fact the church is the only thing that can meet your five deepest needs. God created the entire universe because he wanted a family. And God doesn’t want his children to be orphans. He doesn’t want his children to be street kids. He puts them in the family. That family is called the church. There are many metaphors used in the Bible to refer to the church. Today we will look into five of them, and each metaphor actually has great implications in your life. The Church is called a family, a temple [building], a body, a flock and a garden.



1. IN GOD’S FAMILY: _____

“You are members of God’s very own family...and YOU BELONG in God’s household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 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.” Hebrews 2:11 (CEV)

2. IN GOD’S TEMPLE: _____

“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.” Ephesians 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.” Romans 1:12 (NCV)

3. IN CHRIST’S BODY: _____

“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.” Romans 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 Corinthians 12:15-16 (NLT)

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

4. IN GOD’S FLOCK: _____

“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 Peter 5:2 (ICB)

“Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

“Encourage each other and give each other strength.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NCV)

5. IN GOD’S GARDEN: _____

“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)



• THE 2ND PURPOSE OF MY LIFE IS THAT _____

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

• GOD’S FAMILY IS CALLED _____

“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 Timothy 3:14-15 (NCV)

• I AM _____ 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.” Ephesians 2:19 (ICB)

“You are among those who have been CALLED TO BELONG to Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:6 (NLT)

“ECCLESIA” (church) = “THE CALLED OUT”