

SERMON NOTES:

Formed By... | *What is forming you - and who are you becoming?*

Part 2: The People who hold your Story

BIG Idea: Move from attending church to truly belonging within the life, relationships, and mission of a local church. Where do I belong?

Application: Move from attending church to truly belonging within the life, relationships, and mission of a local church.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

That is because access is not the same thing as belonging.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NLT)

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Belonging begins by receiving the church as family rather than continually searching for people who perfectly fit us.

Receive the people God has joined you to, and over time, they become home.

Belonging asks us not only to come, but to stay.

Proskartereō, means to persist, continue steadfastly, remain constant, give sustained attention to, or adhere closely to something.

Belonging only grows when presence becomes a pattern.

1 Corinthians 12:14-26 (NLT)

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

The church is a living body where each member has a purpose, a place of belonging, and a responsibility to play their part.

Consider These 3 Heart Postures:

- 1. Examine our insecurity**
- 2. Examine our independence.**
- 3. Examine our impact**

Ruth 4:14-17 (NLT)

“Then the women of the town said to Naomi, ‘Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!’

Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, ‘Now at last Naomi has a son again!’ And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.”