

UGHH!!!
 Uncomfortable/Grit Your Teeth/Hard/Holy
 Sometimes Hard Things Are The Best Thing For Us

Participation – A Place of Belonging

“To whom do you belong, and where are you going . . . ?”
GENESIS 32:17

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
MATTHEW 20:25-28

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 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.” **I PETER 2:9-10**

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”
GALATIANS 6:10

“. . . for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”
LEVITICUS 25:55

“For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”
ROMANS 14:7-8

Jesus taught, with regards to positions or places of power, that we not relate to others as though they belong to us and therefore “exercise authority over them”, but that we relate to others as though we belong to them through service and sacrifice (Mt 20:25-28). The contrast between these two approaches to leadership is enormous and it means that God’s call to greatness has got to become our defining approach to life and community. As a church and a participant in God’s family, service and belonging are intimately connected together. We find our place of belonging by participating in the common life of our church and we overcome the ughh!!! of having family chores by recognizing that our service is ultimately about:

- 1. friendship not just function
- 2. touch not just task
- 3. gifting not just giftedness
- 4. being needed not just needs
- 5. “starting somewhere & sticking with it”