



**OBBC – Who We Are – Presence  
John 1:14**

**God's Presence with Us**

God was with Adam and Eve in the garden. After they sinned God came to them to bring judgment (banishment from the garden, living in a sin corrupted world and death). Isaiah prophesied a son would be born who would be called, Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14). Jesus fulfilled that prophecy by leaving heaven and dwelling with us (John 1:14). The hope for our future is that we will be in God's presence for eternity (Rev 21:3).

**Our Presence with Others**

If God makes the effort to be present with people, shouldn't we do the same?

***In the Church***

People aren't created to be alone, and Christians aren't saved to live their Christian lives alone. God declared in Genesis 2 that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul spells out how each Christian uniquely contributes to the health of the church. We need each other. There are 47 verses in the NT that command us how to treat one another. Paul wrote 60% of them. About 33% tell us to get along with each other, 33% tell us to love each other, 15% tell us to be humble, and the other 15% give other commands. The writer of Hebrews commands us to meet together and care for each other. (Heb 10:24,25).

***Outside the Church***

Jesus commands us to make disciples. He says, "GO!" Too often the call of the church is "COME!" Some people came to Jesus (Nicodemus – John 3:1-21). Some people invited Jesus into their homes (Simon – Luke 7:36-50). But the vast majority of Jesus' ministry was going to people. He went to the sick and the lost and he healed and saved them. The early church, and apostles left Jerusalem and went throughout the Roman Empire.

**OBBC - Presence**

**Good** – *In the Church* – Sunday School, Deacon Family Plan, METS, Worship Services Ministries in the Church. *Outside the Church* – Youth Missions, Lunch Buddies, ARK, Pineview, WOM, Selah Center, Monetary Gifts to Missions & Missionaries. **THANK YOU to all who serve and give at Olive Branch!**

**New** – *In the Church* – Reach out to those still not with us in person. *Outside the Church* – Feed the Band at the High School, Global Hunger Sunday

**Improve** – Change our mindset from mostly "Come" to "Go and Come." Let's brainstorm ways we can be in the community where people already are. For example, children and youth sports or other ways to be involved in the schools. Think about how each of us can reach people that God has already sent us to. For example, our neighbors, co-workers, and family. For example, [blesseveryhome.com](http://blesseveryhome.com)