

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

HOW WE KNOW WE BELONG TO JESUS

1 JOHN 5:13

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

HOW WE KNOW WE BELONG TO JESUS

1 JOHN 5:13

I Know I belong to Jesus Because of How I Live

I know I Belong to Jesus Because of How I Love People

I Know I belong to Jesus Because I Know and Trust Jesus

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week read the letter of 2 John.

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

SEPTEMBER 28: NEHEMIAH 8-10
SEPTEMBER 29: NEHEMIAH 11-13; PSALM 126
SEPTEMBER 30: MALACHI
OCTOBER 1: LUKE 1; JOHN 1:1-14
OCTOBER 2: MATTHEW 1; LUKE 2:1-38
OCTOBER 3: MATTHEW 2; LUKE 2:39-52
OCTOBER 4: MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 3

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Join Pastor Dylan to explore the history literature and theology of each book of the New Testament on Sunday evenings, starting today at 6:00 PM. Started in March, took most of the summer off and continues most Sundays, as we move through all of the New Testament.

GAMES, GRUB & GATHERING

All are invited for an evening of food, games, and fellowship on October 4th, from 6:00-9:00 PM. Come on your own or invite a friend or bring your whole family. Register at www.bellcreek.org by October 3 if you would like to join. Please contact Dawnie Owens (734-926-7794) if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S TESTIMONY NIGHT

All women are invited to hear the testimonies of two of our sisters in Christ--Amanda Rice and Elyse Quint-- on Sunday, October 5, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. If you need childcare to attend, please contact Annie Whalen at 248-225-8754.

AS THEY GO PRAYER MEETING

Join us as we pray for our adult children on Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 AM in the Prayer Room. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelly Salter (ksalter1122@gmail.com).

MOMCO RUMMAGE SALE

MomCo's semi-annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Presale for Bell Creek attenders only (please do not invite others to the presale) will be on Friday, October 10 from 6:00-7:00 PM. For questions, contact mops@bellcreek.org. Donations drop off will be on the following days:

October 8 from 6:00-8:00 PM
October 9 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM
October 10 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM. To register for the class, you can do so by visiting www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

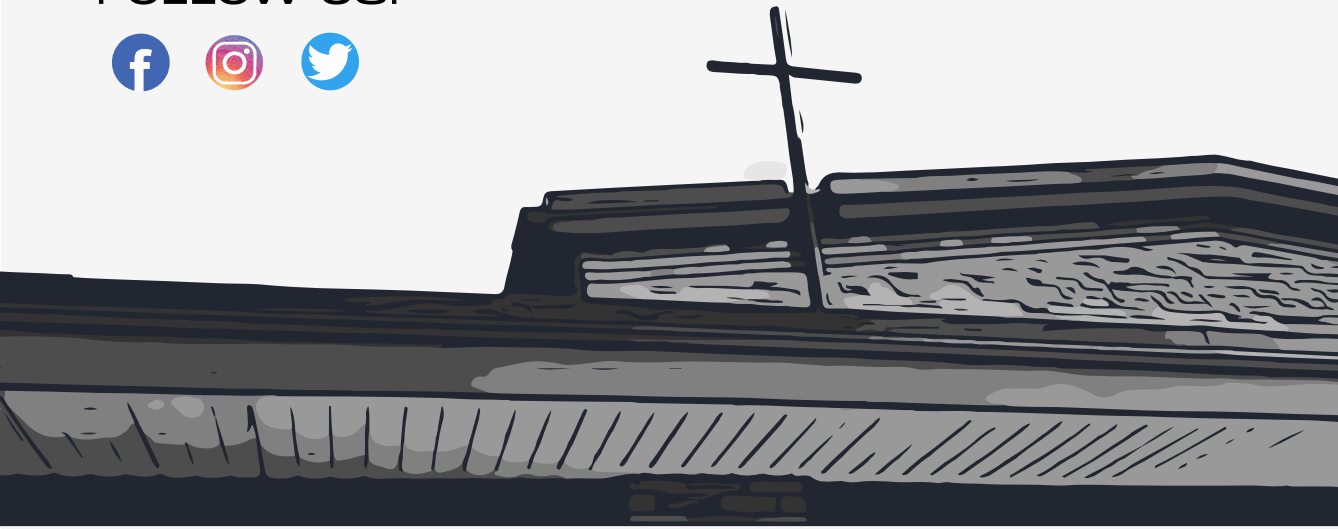
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 09.28.2025

Sermon Text: 1 John 5:13

Sermon Title: How We Know We Belong to Jesus

1 John 5:13 ESV — “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Scripture Reading

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.” (Isaiah 55:1–3, ESV)

Introduction – This sermon is a summary of 1 John. John told us why he wrote this letter to us:

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13, ESV)

We are going to revisit what John has told us are the signs, the marks, the fruit that exist in the lives of those who know Jesus.

In this book, John has made it clear to us that eternal life is found only in Jesus Christ. If you are not in Christ, you don't have eternal life (1 John 5:12). These marks of faith, obedience, and love aren't just moral standards - they are evidence (the Scriptures also call them “fruit”) of a living relationship with Jesus. Without Him, there is no assurance, no forgiveness, and no true hope.

Question: If you don't belong to Jesus today, what is keeping you from trusting in Him? What is keeping you from confessing your sin and trusting Him as the Son of God, the Savior who gives eternal life? Is it fear, doubt, pride, sin, or just indifference? Are these things really worth holding on to? Wouldn't it be worth it to reconsider Jesus, the Son of God, and His love for you?

Now, as we go through the signs of those who know Jesus, it is essential to remember that no one demonstrates this kind of life fully or perfectly.

Christians are forgiven, saved, children of God. We are born again, and we have a new nature. Our old nature was separated from God and headed to hell – an eternity without Him. But where we were once dead and condemned in our sins, Jesus has raised us to life. Our new nature is joined forever in relationship to God through faith in Jesus. And our new nature will make itself known by displaying outwardly the presence of a new life, with new thoughts, new desires, new emotions, new actions, new hopes, and new purposes, all rooted in a relationship with Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

But it is not a perfect nature yet! It will be someday! That's why John says:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:9-10, ESV)

I Know I belong to Jesus Because of How I Live

I walk in the light - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7 ESV)

I admit I'm a sinner and I confess my sins - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 ESV)

I keep God's commands - "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him." (1 John 2:3-5 ESV)

I walk as Jesus walked - "Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." (1 John 2:6 ESV)

I practice righteousness - "Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous." (1 John 3:7 ESV)

I don't make a practice of sinning - "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9 ESV)

John writes not to make believers doubt, but to give them assurance. These signs - how I live, how I love, what I believe- are not burdens but signs of God's grace at work in us. As believers, we are called to continue walking in the light, loving God's people, and holding fast to Jesus. Our lives should increasingly display the reality that we belong to Him.

Question: For those of us who know Jesus, let's ask ourselves, "Where in my daily life does my faith in Christ need to become more visible in my obedience, my love for others, and in my trust in the Lord?"

I know I Belong to Jesus Because of How I Love People

I love God's people, the Church - "Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling." (1 John 2:10 ESV)

"We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death." (1 John 3:14 ESV)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7 ESV)

My love is not just in words but in my actions - "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18 ESV)

I Know I belong to Jesus Because I Know and Trust Jesus

I abide in the truth about Jesus - “Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.” (1 John 2:24 ESV)

I confess that Jesus is fully God and fully man, the only Savior - “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:15 ESV)

I believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God - “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.” (1 John 5:1 ESV)

I believe I have the Holy Spirit with me and in me - “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.” (1 John 3:24 ESV)

“By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” (1 John 4:13 ESV)

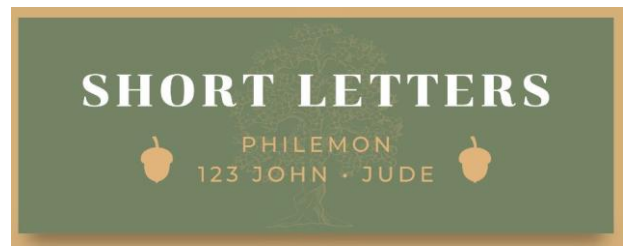
I overcome the pride, desires, and lies of my own flesh and the world through faith in Jesus - “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4–5 ESV)

John reminds us that those who are born of God “overcome the world” through faith (1 John 5:4-5). Trusting Jesus doesn’t take away pain or hardship, but it anchors us in the truth that suffering is never outside of God’s purposes, God’s love, or God’s control. Suffering does not have the final word. In every trial, the Spirit assures us that we belong to Jesus, and He will walk with us and take us through it. Nothing - no loss, no sorrow, no darkness can separate us from His steadfast love.

Question: In your suffering, will you allow Jesus to bear the weight of your trials? Who will have the loudest voice in your suffering? Will you allow Jesus to speak words of hope, strength and peace to you? Will you allow Him to grant you rest in the gentle assurance that you are God’s child, held in Christ, and that through Him you will overcome?

BENEDICTION

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 24–25, ESV)



How We Know We Belong to Jesus

1. What did you think of the sermon "How We Know We Belong to Jesus"?

2. John says believers can *know* they have eternal life. What helps you personally feel assured of your salvation in Christ? What do you think makes assurance difficult for some people?

3. John points to walking in the light, confessing sin, and practicing righteousness as marks of belonging to Jesus. Which of these signs do you think is most challenging for believers to live out consistently, and why? How have you seen God's grace help you grow in one of these areas?

4. John emphasizes that true love is shown in actions, not just words. What are some practical ways we can better show love to fellow believers in our church or community? Why do you think love for others is such a strong sign of belonging to Jesus?

5. John says those born of God overcome the world through faith. How have you seen faith in Jesus make a difference during seasons of suffering in your life? In others' lives? What does it look like to let Jesus' voice be louder than fear or doubt in a trial?

