



Sermon Series: True Belonging

Sermon Title: Why Me?

Date: 8/17/2025

Big Idea: You are essential, and God has you here on purpose.

In a culture where loneliness is common, it's easy to feel unnoticed or unneeded. Many today quietly wonder, "Would anyone miss me if I stayed away?" Scripture speaks directly against this lie. In **1 Corinthians 12:12–18**, Paul reminds us that God has intentionally placed each believer in the church. You're not here by chance—you're here by design.

We Are Many, but We Are One

1 Corinthians 12:12–14

Paul compares the church to the human body—many parts working together under one head. Just as hands, feet, eyes, and ears have different functions but are all essential, so it is in the church. Our diversity of gifts, personalities, and experiences is not a problem to solve; it's a strength to embrace.

Whether you're teaching, greeting, mentoring, pouring coffee, caring for children, or quietly serving behind the scenes, you matter to the health of the whole. Every believer has a role, and the church thrives when each one plays their part. This is why biblical community is so important. In small groups, we can truly know and be known, care for one another, and grow together in Christ.

You Are Essential, Not Optional

1 Corinthians 12:15–16

Paul paints a humorous picture of a foot deciding it doesn't belong because it isn't a hand. The point? Feelings of inadequacy don't change reality. If you're part of the body, you belong. The enemy wants you to believe otherwise—to compare yourself to others and decide you have nothing to offer. But God says the opposite: your gifts and presence are indispensable.

You might not serve in a visible role, but that doesn't make your contribution any less vital. Just as feet quietly carry the body where it needs to go, unseen acts of service strengthen the whole church.

Comparison Kills
1 Corinthians 12:17

If the whole body were an eye, we couldn't hear; if it were all ears, we couldn't smell. A church made up of only one kind of gift or role would be dysfunctional. God designed us differently so we could serve one another, not compete with one another.

Two great ways to live this out are by joining a serve team and participating in a small group. Serving lets the church function well as a gathered community. Small groups provide space for encouragement, prayer, and spiritual growth. Both require us to step out of isolation and into connection.

You Were Placed Here on Purpose
1 Corinthians 12:18

Paul says, *"God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose."* This means your place in the church is not accidental—it's intentional. The original Greek word for "arranged" speaks of deliberate placement, like setting a cornerstone or carefully laying a foundation. God put you here for a reason, in this church, in this season.

When you grasp this truth, it changes your mindset. Instead of asking, "What do I get from being here?" you begin asking, "God, what do You want to do through me here?"

Being essential to the body means more than attending—it means engaging. Join a small group where you can build real relationships. Find a place to serve that aligns with your gifts and passions. Share life with others, encourage them, and let them encourage you.

The truth is not just motivational—it's biblical: You are essential, and God has you here on purpose. Stop believing the lie that you don't matter. Lean in. The body of Christ needs you, and you need the body.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Paul compares the church to a human body. How does this metaphor help you better understand your role in the church?**
- 2. Have you ever felt like the “foot” or “ear” in Paul’s example—less valuable or unnecessary? What helped you overcome those feelings?**
- 3. Why do you think comparison is so damaging to unity in the body of Christ? How can we guard against it?**
- 4. Verse 18 says God “arranged” each member of the body as He chose. How does knowing your placement is intentional change your attitude toward serving and connecting?**
- 5. What’s one practical step you can take this month to engage more fully in the life of the church—through serving, joining a group, or building relationships?**