

WE BELONG

We Belong to God. We are the house of God. Are we living like children who belong to the family OR like outsiders striving to become a part? Are we making decisions with the Word of God as our foundation OR are we basing what we believe on our ever-changing culture and a worldly mindset?

Hebrews 3:1-14 (NLT)

3 And so, **dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and^[a] are partners with those called to heaven**, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger^[b] and High Priest. ² For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire^[c] house.

³ But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. ⁴ For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.

⁵ Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. ⁶ But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. **And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.**^[d]

⁷ That is why the Holy Spirit says,

“Today when you hear his voice,

⁸ don't harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled,

when they tested me in the wilderness.

⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience,

even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said,

‘Their hearts always turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath:
‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”^[e]

¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters.^[f] Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

The theme of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as revealer and as mediator of God's grace.

But I also see us, you and me, laced into every word of the book of Hebrews and of the entire Bible for that matter. You and I are a part of God’s “Grand Redemptive Narrative” (The Bible) and not just a part, but the object of his affection and attention.

Jesus, who is God, was sent to reconcile us back to Himself because we were under the curse of sin from our “father” Adam and now we have been made righteous in God’s eyes because of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. All we have to do is accept Jesus, the revealer and mediator of God’s great grace, into our lives. After we’ve done that, we are to live like his children...part of the family...we belong.

In addition to the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ, I just kept getting the Father Heart of God out of my reading. Each chapter would start with the priority of Christ and then quickly move into God fathering his kids and loving them so much that He doesn’t want to see them miss out on His rest...miss out on being with Him.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once 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 Belong To You” lyrics by Bethel

Verse 1:

Your love has won my heart forever
Not because of anything I've done
But You have scaled the hills and mountains
Just to search and find the one You love

Chorus:

I belong to You, I belong to You
I belong to You, forever Yours

Verse 2:

And when I was drowning in my doubt
Your mighty right hand lifted me out
And now we are walking on the water
'Cause you lift my head above the crowd

Verse 3:

And when this life is over
And I stand to see You face to face
There's nothing that I will have wanted
But to be with the One
I belong to always

This stirred something in me and I just began to weep when I was preparing my message. I was crying so much...I'm just glad no one saw me! I was even doing the “ugly cry” and no one wants to see that! Haha. But seriously, God was moving in me and revealing something to me and I still don't have it completely figured out but I felt so strongly like He just wanted me to be still and know that He's God...that He's my Dad and He's got it all figured out...that He's proud of me and

I need to stop trying to strive and stop trying to achieve in order to receive. I've received it all already, I just need to accept it and rest in it! It was at that time that I was reminded of the story of the Lost Son.

Do me a favor and put yourself in the story today. You are the lost son...you are the lost child.

Luke 15:1-24 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Just like I told our youth this week, God wants to throw a party for you. Whether it's you coming to Him for the first time and accepting the salvation He has to offer OR coming back to Him after running away from His love...either way, His love is unending; it's captivating; it's expansive; it's unconditional...it's a love that you can only experience from God...not of this earth...He doesn't expect anything in return.

Hebrews 3:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters who **belong** to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest.

Hebrews 3:14

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that **belongs** to Christ.

Do you belong to Him today? Are you living like it?

Let's Pray.