



“SURPRISED BY BELONGING”

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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED WITH BELONGING?

The Cultural Model of Belonging

_____ → _____ → _____

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BELONGING:

1. You _____ before you _____.

As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew. They were throwing a net into the sea because they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me! I will teach you how to catch people instead of fish.” They immediately left their nets and followed him. As Jesus went on, he saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee preparing their nets to go fishing. He called them, and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Matthew 4:18–22 (GW)

- Belonging is based on who you are, not what you’ve done.

2. Belonging _____ us to _____ accordingly.

Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness...Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions... “Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!”

Matthew 10:1, 5, 7–8 (NLT)

- Behaving is about engaging in practices and communal norms.

3. We _____ in God’s _____.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 16:13–17 (NRSV)

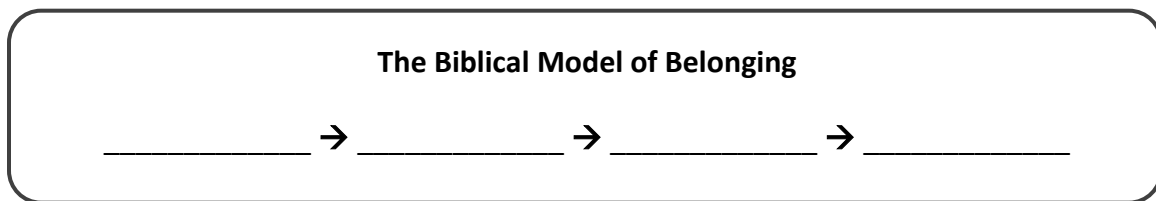
- Believing is an abiding trust that moves from heart to head.

4. Believing _____ us to _____.

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. Acts 10:9–16 (NIV)

- Becoming is the process of sanctification (Christ-likeness).



KNOWING YOU BELONG CHANGES EVERYTHING

ANSWER KEY:

Cultural model: **BELIEVE** → **BEHAVE** → **BELONG**

1. **BELONGED** before you **KNEW IT**
2. **LEADS** us to **BEHAVE**
3. **BELIEVE** in God's **PERFECT TIMING**
4. **EMPOWERS** us to **BECOME LIKE JESUS**

Biblical model: **BELONG** → **BEHAVE** → **BELIEVE** → **BECOME**



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. When in your life did you struggle with a sense of belonging? How did that experience shape how you relate to God and others later in life? How might you help others who struggle to belong?
2. In what ways have you lived out the belief that belonging is dependent on the things that you do? How did those things lead you closer to or further away from Jesus?
3. What practices have deepened your faith? How did they do so? Do you sense God is inviting you to engage in new practices to strengthen your faith? What might those be?
4. Have you experienced belief as intellectual knowledge that moved to your heart or as a deep trust that moved from your heart to a confession of faith (to your head)? How are these experiences of belief similar and how are they different?
5. What are some actions you can take to resist the cultural model of belonging and to promote the biblical model of belonging?

Ways to Belong:

- Come to our **Welcome Back Bash** on September 11.
- Engage in community and spiritual practices **through Wednesday Night Dinner & Discipleship** every week starting on September 14.
- Take our **Alpha** or **Life Together** class (in-person or online).
- Sign up at www.christchurchva.org/updates for our community and ministry updates to stay in touch.

Find info and links for the above classes and events in today's **Christ Church Weekly Bulletin**: <https://conta.cc/3KOk7NS>