

Last message in WELCOME HOME SERIES

TITLE: Born to Belong

Most believers are homeless. Covid has crippled their connections to church. It has severed their spiritual umbilical cord, so they no longer receive nourishment like they used to. **HOWEVER...SAY HOWEVER**

Matthew 16:18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it"

What is it? The Church will never fail, never falter, and never fizzle.

¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'),^[a] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell^[b] will not conquer it.

NLT

(MESSAGE) "And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out."

THE CHURCH IS NOT A MATERIAL BUILDING, THE CHURCH IS NOT A DENOMINATION Notice that Jesus does not say He will build His CHURCHES, but His CHURCH. There is only one church - and its message has never changed!

Ephesians 1:22-23 NLT ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself

Ephesians gives a perfect picture of the church as 1 body, fully immersed in His glory and goodness to display, saturated and flooded with the majesty of God for all eternity. It is through the church (YOU) that this is manifest and projected! That would forever demonstrate the rule, the wisdom and reign of God.

Ephesians 3:10-11 NLT

What was Gods intent before creation?

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 16:3-5

Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. ⁴ In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. ⁵ Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ.

CHURCH IN THE GREEK is Ekklisia

The word is a compound of two segments: **ekk**, a preposition meaning "out of," and a verb, **kaleo**, signifying "to call out." **or called out ones**

The "going to" is just as important as "the being."

"The being" needs the "going to" simultaneously.

Karl Vaters said, "If we're serious about being the church, it should make us passionate about the essential need to go. To do one without the other is to take neither very seriously."

The reason we gather together is that it enhances our humanity. We were not meant to be alone. We need community, fellowship, partnership and even accountability. Isolation is a private prison. We were created to interact. Genesis 2 says "It is not good that man be alone"

Rueben Hunter: Lead pastor of [Trinity West Church](#) in London wrote the article "Should your church transform a city". It said, "So it's every church planter's dream that they move into an area and grow a church that has a *transformative* effect on both the lives and also the culture in a given area."

"When it comes to the church's role in "transforming" community or culture, we should see that this happens in the weekly rhythms of the gathering and scattering of church members—coming together each Lord's Day to be

transformed by participating in Word and sacrament, then scattering to labor faithfully and prayerfully in whatever sphere God has deployed them. “

Jesus is building his called-out community to change a culture that contradicts his Kingdom.

You don't have church until you have an assembly.

Acts 20: 7 On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord's Supper.^[a] Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight.”

They gathered together the first day of the week

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory

[Abraham Maslow](#) first introduced the concept of a hierarchy of needs in his 1943 paper, titled "A Theory of Human Motivation," and again in his subsequent book, "Motivation and Personality." This hierarchy suggests that people are motivated to fulfill basic needs before moving on to other, more advanced needs. While some of the existing schools of thought at the time—such as [psychoanalysis](#) and [behaviorism](#)—tended to focus on problematic behaviors, Maslow was more interested in learning about what makes people happy and what they do to achieve that aim.

As a [humanist](#), Maslow believed that people have an inborn desire to be self-actualized, that is, **to be all they can be**. To achieve this ultimate goal, however, a number of more basic needs must be met. This includes the need for food, safety, love, and self-esteem.¹

Security and Safety Needs

At the second level of Maslow's hierarchy, the needs start to become a bit more complex. At this level, the needs for security and safety become primary. People want control and order in their lives. Some of the basic security and safety needs include:

- [Financial security](#)
- Health and wellness
- Safety against accidents and injury

Social Needs-Love and Belonging

The social needs in Maslow's hierarchy include [love](#), acceptance, and [belonging](#).

At this level, the need for emotional relationships drives human behavior. Some of the things that satisfy this need include:

Friendships, Romantic attachments, Family relationships, social groups, community groups.

What Is the Sense of Belonging?

By
[Kendra Cherry](#)



Updated on March 05, 2021 The need to belong, also known as belongingness, refers to a human emotional need to affiliate with and be accepted by members of a group. This may include the need to belong to a peer group at school, to be accepted by co-workers, to be part of an athletic team, or to be part of a religious group.

A sense of belonging involves more than simply being acquainted with other people. It is centered on gaining acceptance, attention, and support from members of the group as well as providing the same attention to other members. The need to belong to a group also can lead to changes in behaviors, beliefs, and [attitudes](#) as people strive to conform to the standards and norms of the group.

By belonging to a group, we feel as if we are a part of something bigger and more important than ourselves.

Esteem Needs

At the fourth level in Maslow's hierarchy is the need for appreciation and [respect](#). Once the needs at the bottom three levels have been satisfied, the esteem needs begin to play a more prominent role in motivating behavior.

Self-Actualization Needs

At the very peak of Maslow's hierarchy are the self-actualization needs. [Self-actualizing](#) people are self-aware, concerned with personal growth, less concerned with the opinions of others, and interested in fulfilling their potential.

"What a man can be, he must be," Maslow explained, referring to the need people have to achieve their full potential as human beings.

Humankind works best when they belong.

The point of all this psychological jargon is to reinforce the fact that God has created a space for his creation via the church to lock arms with him, fellowship with him in a partnering relationship. It is from this community that God will manifest himself powerfully through the lives of those in like mind and purpose.

The church is the vehicle that God has established to carry out your calling.

Thanks to COVID, Half of believers no longer belong to a local church because they have been robbed of the need to belong.

We want the Southshore to know that it is safe to come home. It is safe to come to church, it is safe to try again and trust your church family. It is safe to come back to a place where you will be served, nurtured, loved, fed, clothed with the goodness of God.

It is safe to enter into the harbor of protection where you will not be beaten by religious waves of performance and condemnation. I assure you that Sheryl and I will do our best to protect this house and you will be overtaken by a tsunami of love and acceptance.

This is a place where you don't serve the ego of someone else, but you enter a place where you are seen, recognized and

respected. A place where we rejoice together in the rejuvenating, restoring reality of Jesus Christ!!!

BOLD STATEMENT- You belong to God
 BOLDER STATEMENT- You belong at Impact Church.
 You Belong on purpose.

1. I belong to God:

John 15:16-19

New Living Translation

¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first." ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

God is not in control of you, He is in love with you. He wants to use the church to impact the world and he wants to use you to impact others.

I want you to know that not only are you planted in God's Kingdom, but I believe God divinely planned for you to be planted here as well. The deeper your roots go the more you will blossom. It is our responsibility to water you, weed you, prune you and fertilize you and expose you to his glory!

God chose you by choice! You may not have chosen Him, but he chose you! The scripture says you do not belong to "The World"

Isaiah 56:2-5 Make sure no outsider who now follows God ever has occasion to say, 'God put me in second-class. I don't really belong.' And make sure no physically mutilated person is ever made to think, 'I'm damaged goods. I don't really belong.'"

You will never ever hear me say, YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!!!
Regardless of your economic status, your gender, your ethnicity, your color or even if you don't believe the same as we do.

Don't ever underestimate, pre judge, pre-qualify someone's desire to connect with God. I don't believe it's a 1-2-3 quick process for everyone.

As much as I would like to see in a perfect world- Repent, be baptized in water, get filled with the Holy Spirit and become a warrior for Jesus all in the same day.....we need to practice patience.....build trust based on the fact that you really care for people.

**Everybody fits in and everybody belongs! Regardless!
I don't understand everything and do not pretend to...what I do know is everyone is welcome**

This is our culture and we will hammer this until it becomes a reality in this city.

REPEAT WITH ME; I BELONG TO GOD

2.) I Belong at Impact:

Psalm 92:13-14 New Living Translation

¹³For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green."

I know that not only do I live here, but I'm called here. I also know that I am committed to the culture of Impact Church.

Passion Ignites Your Calling

Here I am, Lord! Send me! (Isaiah 6:8)

In this verse, Isaiah expressed his deep passion and desire for God to call Him according to His purposes.

The first powerful sign of God's calling is passion. You ache to do a certain role, accomplish a certain goal, or help certain people. The desire is so

strong that you can't let it go. You think about it. You pray about it. You dream about it.

Your passion usually connects with highly impactful times in your own life, especially as you've seen God work. For example, I've always had a strong desire to fulfill God's purpose in my life, so I want to help people find their purpose in Christ. Passion for calling is stronger than normal desire. Passion for calling might periodically fade away, but it won't go away. You feel like you "just can't not do it!"

I trust you can confirm your convictions of why you are called to lock arms with us.

This what I know as FACT! I belong to God and I belong at Impact!

Ephesians 2:19-20 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 New Living Translation¹⁸ **But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.** ¹⁹ **How strange a body would be if it had only one part!** ²⁰ **Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.**

1 Corinthians 12:18

American Standard Version¹⁸ **But now hath God set (tithemi- to set, fix and establish) the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him**

God has placed each of us right where he wants us.

God has a garden for every seed!!

If you wander you waste IF you belong, you build, We waste when we wander, wondering what could have been built through belonging.

3. I belong on purpose

1 Peter 4:10

New Living Translation¹⁰ **God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.**

I know that for the next 8 years I am planted on purpose. At 70 we will retire and I want to pass the baton on with a battalion of believers. I am committed to usher in a revival to the south shore.

Romans 12:6 ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you
Look at yourselves as gifts under a Christmas tree ready to be opened.

Belonging on Purpose means something

It means I am known. Did you know sometimes it is hard to know people because they don't make themselves known. Try as much as possible to not leave so fast. Hang out. We see each other once a week, 2x if lucky. Tell us what you think your gifts and callings are. Invite people over.

I am unpacked: You unpack your suitcase and store it. Better yet, give it away because you are done searching. I have seen way too many people over the years never let go of their suitcase. Some people carry way too much baggage around with them!

I contribute; I'm responsible: How many know where the mop is here? The shovel? The flags? The lawn mower?

I speak the language: One of the languages we speak is that of honor. We honor each other, respect each other, value each other, learn from each, grow with each other.

Another language we speak is serving. We may not always be there in a split second, but we will respond.

Another is grace. That means we take the time to understand you.

The big one is Love God, Love one another and Love your neighbor. You might as well add **love yourself!** 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:31

Acts 20:28 “So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood^[a]—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. NLT

Do you know who your pastors are. Sheryl and I have a pastor and mentor.

Galatians 6:9-10 So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

The house of God where you belong is not to contain you or constrict you, but it is to strengthen you, protect you and to give you value. A place that serves your specific purpose and brings out the best in you.

WELCOME HOME