

“Belonging”

Romans 8: 14-17

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Belonging or ‘fitting in’. Belonging is something we want for everyone in society. Sometimes belonging is understood to mean ‘fitting in’. As humans, we are so worried about how others perceive us. Do we fit in? Do we look good? What will people think? Then someone will say: Who cares what people think! Let them think what they want. What difference does it make?

Belonging means something different from fitting in. Belonging has to do with being valued and loved. Belonging means you are a vital part of the group and you are an important piece which contributes to making the whole. Belonging is being somewhere where you want to be, and they want you. Belonging is being accepted for you. Fitting in is being accepted for being like everyone else and the others tend not to care whether you are there or not.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!^[a] Father!” The Holy Spirit frees us – it does not put us in the bondage of fear. We belong body and soul, both in life and in death to God.

¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[b] with our spirit that we are children of God, The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit would basically mean that God speaks to us through our minds and our hearts.

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. If we suffer with him, it means our faith is more than “Me and Jesus.” It means that we depend on the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit to advance the Kingdom by loving your neighbour as yourself. Often that is not easy to do – especially if your neighbour is not that likeable. Or, when you reach out you feel awkward. Awkwardness is part of it. Feeling awkward could be viewed as one indication that you are going beyond your comfort zone to take the lead of the Spirit!

You belong to God! You are a vital part of the body of Christ! As part of the body, the family of God, let us challenge one another to function in a healthy way to advance his Kingdom. Remember, you don’t merely fit in – you belong! By the Holy Spirit’s guidance show others that they belong too! Fear not and stop playing it safe, get out of our shells and let the Holy Spirit lead the way!

Where have you been prompted by the Holy Spirit and ignored it?

Have you prayed for the Holy Spirit’s guidance? What happened?

What does it mean to be ‘a Church on the move’....?

Being led by the Holy Spirit may cause us suffering, but that is good suffering because it is line with the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ which brought healing to the world. Amen.