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GOD'S HOPE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Session 5: God Wants You to Belong

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | October 15, 2017



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

PARTICIPANT'S STUDY GUIDE

Getting to Know One Another

- When did you become a part of the family of God at Cedar Grove?
- Do you have a sense of belonging to this church family? How does it compare to belonging to your biological family?

God Wants You to BELONG

On Sunday we saw God's church as three biblical metaphors:

1. A **family** by which we gain our identity;
2. A **temple** in which we are supported;
3. And a **body**, where we find our value

A fourth description of the church in the Bible is a _____.

God made us and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3 (NIV)

1 Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need!

2-3 He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what honors him the most.

4 Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.

5 You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow!

6 Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home.

Psalm 23:1-6 (TLB)

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

John 10:11-13 (NIV)

- In God's flock I'm _____.

*Take care of God's flock, his people, that you are responsible for. Watch over them because you want to, not because you're forced to. **1 Peter 5:2***

*Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. **Hebrews 13:17***

*Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way you obey the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:2***

*Encourage each other and give each other strength. **1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Q:

Who are 2 or 3 people who have looked out for you in a spiritual way, people who have been concerned for you, have prayed for you, have called you, encouraged you or perhaps taken you in at one time?

Q:

Do you have 2 or 3 people that you watch over, care for, encourage, and pray for in the family of God?

The fifth and final metaphor is the church as a _____.

5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."* **John 15:5-8 NIV**

- In God's garden _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Note: Open your group with a prayer.

1. Do you now, or have you ever felt disconnected from the church or the family of God? Explain how you believe the disconnect occurred. If you have never felt disconnected, from the church, share with your partner what you have done to stay connected.
2. Having a sense of belonging and being connected in the church and family of God can result in us being fruitful and productive in most areas of our lives. Have you or are you seeing evidence of this in your life? Give examples.
3. Cedar Grove has many ways or opportunities for you to be deeply connected in the family of God; for example you could commit to becoming a covenant member, serve on a Ministry team, or serve as a Life Group host or leader. Have you connected this way? If not, discuss with your partner what your next step may be.

PRAYER TIME



Note: Please have everyone pair up for prayer and then you should close. Allow 7 – 10 minutes.

- Take the time now to praise God for placing you in His family and giving you a place to belong.
- Thank Him for and pray for one of the shepherds He has placed in your life.
- One of the great blessings of being connected to the church and the family of God is that we look out for and pray for one another - if you haven't already take the time now to pray for each other.

