

Grace Lutheran Church
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Grace Notes

October 2019

Our Need to Belong

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:20)

As human beings, we have no greater need than our need to belong. The “feeling” of unconditional belonging and acceptance gives us a sense of security and confidence. It instills in us a “feeling” of purpose and meaning. Ultimately, knowing that we truly belong validates our very existence. This is why we work so hard to acquire it. We compete and strive and are willing to give most anything to experience the “feel” of it. Without a sense of belonging, we simply cannot live in peace or contentment.

As children, our desire to belong motivates us to seek our parents’ approval. It drives us to impress our friends, teachers and classmates. Our need to belong also moves us to marry, have children, join various social groups and be involved in our community. The human need to belong drives social media. As human beings, we simply need to know that we matter.

Our world convinces us that in order to belong we must prove or demonstrate our worth. We must prove that we’re better than others. The world teaches us that our sense of belonging relies entirely on performance. This painful

reality is the consequence of Adam and Eve both believing the falsehood presented in Genesis Chapter 3. This lie was (and still is) both subtle and seductive: reject God and take matters into your own hands; take control of your own life and pursue your own desires and greatness. How enticing and attractive this idea sounds with its promise of bliss. Frank Sinatra personifies this seduction when he sings the lyrics, “*I did it **my** way*”. Sad to say, in the end this way of living leaves a person (and world) feeling confused, frustrated and terribly alone and isolated. The reality is; no one can satisfy their most sacred and deepest need to belong on their own. Only with God and through God can this divine need be fulfilled.

This is why Jesus’ message regarding the kingdom of God is the world’s greatest hope. The kingdom of God is the only reality in which we can discover our true identity because it’s the only reality where we truly belong. This profound truth is what Paul

Our Need to Belong

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writes about when he states,

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world.”

(Ephesians 1:4)

What Paul means is that before the world was ever created we already belonged to God! Before you and I took our first breath, or our parents took theirs or our grandparents theirs, we already belonged to God. This is the truth revealed in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

“And God saw all that He had made, and it was good!”

Our destiny and purpose of being God’s image-bearers was assured from the creation of the world. The reason we can’t experience or feel this truth is that we have been conditioned from birth to reject this glorious reality. We have been sold the terrifying lie that God really doesn’t care about us and that we’re all on our own in this world. This lie is why there is so much despair and loneliness in the world. It stems from the painful belief that it’s up to us to prove our worth in order to belong. Eventually though, we all come to realize that that is impossible.

Through Christ Jesus, God offers us the very real hope of meeting our deepest desire. He offers us a reality more genuine and absolute than anything this world has to offer. Our God offers us citizenship into His eternal kingdom where we can discover our true belonging and realize our true sacred purpose. This offer is Jesus’ invitation to become His disciples, to learn through Him that God has not abandoned us, but is with and for us. This offer is Jesus’

call to discover the glorious truth that one-day God will recreate this world into a glorious new world without pain, suffering or death - a world in which we will see God face to face. This is the ultimate reality. It is where we truly belong. And while it is a future reality, we can begin to experience it in the here and now through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace,



Pastor Steve



October Birthdays

Hymyok Henry	1st
Glenda Lloyd	7th
Genevieve Sinclair	15th
Marge Casten	17th
Paul Whetzel	20th
Bob Timberlake	29th

October Flowers

October 8th:	Ann Richardson <i>In Memory of Mom, Maryella Richardson</i>
October 13th:	Judith Smith <i>Goodbye and Thank You</i>
October 20th:	Jack Nold
October 27th:	Bob Timberlake <i>86th Birthday! October 29th</i>



JOY OF SINGING

Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

 **It will be the same time every week!** 

Faith Circle

(Monthly Women’s Bible Study)

...will meet on Wednesday, October 13th at 1:00 pm here at Grace. Come join us! All women are welcome.



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All submissions to Grace Notes are subject to editing for space and content purposes.