

Friends in Faith,

I hope this letter finds you well and deeply connected to the grace and love of our Lord. As I reflect on my journey through the church, I feel led to share some thoughts that have shaped my relationship with God and my lived experiences of fellowship within His sanctuary.

For many of us, the church is a place of healing, love, and community—a refuge for the soul. Yet, my journey has at times felt burdened by unspoken judgments, distant stares, and the quiet question I’ve seen etched into expressions: “*What are you doing here?*” These moments, though painful, have become stepping stones to a deeper understanding of God’s love and His purpose for me.

Scripture reminds us that “*all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is through God’s Word that I find strength and guidance, reminding me that my presence in His house is purposeful, and my life is shaped by His divine design.

As it is written, “*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them*” (Genesis 1:27). This truth grounds me when I encounter judgment, knowing that my existence is no accident but a reflection of God’s divine creativity and love. I am also comforted by the words of the psalmist: “*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psalm 139:13-14). From the very beginning, God’s hand has been upon me, crafting me with purpose and care.

“*He has made everything beautiful in its time*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). There is beauty in all of God’s creations, and I am one of those creations. No one has the authority to deny me a relationship with the God Almighty. As Paul reminds us, “*Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies*” (Romans 8:33). My relationship with Him is not determined by human judgment but by His grace and love.

These experiences have taught me to respond to judgment not with confrontation but with surrender. When I sense the weight of human criticism, I quietly say, “*Tell it to the Lord. Tell it to the Lord. Tell it to the Lord.*” If there are questions about my presence, my journey, or even my very existence in the house of God, I invite others to take those questions to Him. Ask Him why He created me, why He called me here, and why His grace is big enough for all of us. In doing so, we might all find the answers that draw us closer to His love.

As believers, we are called to embody Christ's teachings of love, humility, and inclusion. *"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7). My prayer is that we all continue to walk with Him, allowing His light to soften our hearts, heal our wounds, and unite us as one body in Christ. Let us look beyond our human judgments and see each other as God sees us—beloved, redeemed, and worthy.

May we all take our questions, our doubts, and even our struggles to the Lord, trusting in His wisdom and grace to guide us.

**In His love,
*Teddy***