**A PLACE TO BELONG**

People’s actions confirm that they have a fundamental need for a sense of belonging.

I have asked, “Why do you love your church?” One reason is that it is a place of belonging, of acceptance, of support, of encouragement, and of love.

Listen, family, salvation is a gift; church membership (our belonging) is a gift. When we receive a gift that we treasure, we instinctively respond to the giver. Francis Chan writes, “When we see the church from God’s perspective, we appreciate it according to God’s design.”

God created us in love, to love, and to be loved. In that love, our church membership means being a vital organ of a living body.

In calling us to serving as worship, the wonderful truth is that He has already factored in our humanness.

With that comfort, we are fortified to respond to the marching orders that Jesus gives us in [Matt. 22:34-40](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A34-40&version=NKJV). Jesus here quotes a portion of [Leviticus 19:18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus19%3A18&version=NKJV): “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This is a central principle of the Torah and for us.

Our belonging should reflect this principle. And following this principle, we pursue holiness. Striving for holiness then should affect our service and our relationships. ***To serve the church by serving others is an act of worship***.

There is peace in belonging. There is power in belonging--in being created in love for love. This love makes us servants, like Christ as He washed the disciples’ feet (see the [Gospel of John 13:4-17](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John13%3A4-17&version=NKJV)).

To serve in holiness, we must be intentional about ensuring that what we consume is His truth—that what we allow ourselves to think , to do, to believe is truth—that we know our identity is in Him.

**All we who belong to His church must worship Him with personal, intimate service that reflects His wonderful gift of salvation.**