



Todd Arnett

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Celebrate that you belong to Jesus and His Church  
and invite others to belong to Him like you do

1. We **long** to belong

*Psalm 68:4-6*

<b>Rejection</b> (Known, not loved)	<b>Belonging</b> (Known and loved)
<b>Ignored and rejected</b> (Not known, not loved)	<b>Fitting in</b> (Not known, but loved)

(Andy Crouch, *Strong and Weak*)

Our belonging doesn't stem from what we do or where we're from, but to **whom** we belong – Jesus is our unifying factor and we're all included into His Body, the Church thru faith in Him

*"In Christ, we can find true belonging, for true belonging is being simultaneously fully known and fully loved."*

**Jeremy Linneman**

*Romans 12:4-5*

2. Before you believed, you **belonged**

*John 6:37-40*

*John 17:6, 9*

Before you ever heard the name of Jesus or had ever put your faith in what He accomplished for you, you **belonged** to God

For most, you belonged in a relationship or in a community with Jesus followers before you **believed** and it made the truth of Gospel become real and alive because it wasn't just theory, but it had flesh to it

3. Belonging at Trinity is meant to be **shared**

*Romans 7:4*

**Believe** – believing by faith in the Jesus that gives all of God's people true belonging in the first place

**Stay** – engaging a local church for what it is – a group of Jesus followers living for His purposes and not their own fleeting fulfillment

**Move in** – knowing and becoming known.

**Make space** – recognizing that God isn't done adopting kids yet and wants you, as someone who belongs, to be an influence towards those in your relational world who don't yet

*"When we take the focus off our own need for belonging, and create space for others to belong, we find ourselves surrounded by those happy to have us in their lives."*

**Jeremy Linneman**

**Now What?**

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Home Groups are a great place to grow together. There are 40 groups that meet throughout the area. You can apply on our website at [www.trinityonline.org](http://www.trinityonline.org).

### **SHARE A THOUGHT**

When do you remember wishing you could 'belong?' (at work, school, social, etc.)

### **LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE**

What do we learn about being included in God's family?  
Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 3:1

What do we learn about being inclusive of others?  
Romans 15:7

James 2:1-4

1 John 4:7-9

How does our final destiny inform how we should live now?  
Revelation 7:9

Revelation 21:3

What does belonging to God and His family mean to you? Could you share this with your group? With others? 2 Timothy 2:10

### **LIFE CONVERSATION**

Who first helped you feel included in God's family? What did they do?

With the Celtic Christians, 'People could belong before they believed.' How could we practice this? What would this look like?

Why should we be the best at helping others belong? Why is this important in our mission to be "Rooted and Reaching?"

### **HEALTHY RHYTHMS**

Choose a time this week when you can enjoy time alone with God. Perhaps reread the Scriptures about your adoption into His family. (See above)