

3-25-2019

Where Do I Belong?

Anna Bennett

Southern Adventist University, annabennett@southern.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/main>



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bennett, Anna, "Where Do I Belong?" (2019). *The Main Thing Devotional*. 12.
<https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/main/12>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chaplain's Office at KnowledgeExchange@Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Main Thing Devotional by an authorized administrator of KnowledgeExchange@Southern. For more information, please contact jspears@southern.edu.

“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:4-5 NLT

Where Do I Belong?

Defined the relationship: which of these best describes your relationship with church today?

1. Maybe you’re single and ready to mingle – meaning that you’re uncommitted but you show up. You’re just stopping in, checking things out, waiting to see what might happen. Is the music hip enough, is the speaker engaging enough, are people friendly enough?
2. Perhaps you’re committed – though even commitment has different levels - perhaps you consider the University Church, Spanish Church, Korean Church, Crosswalk, or Hamilton Community to be your home, the people to be your family? Maybe you even go a step further and you have committed to being engaged in a particular ministry, or serving as a leader. This is where you commit your time and maybe not just on Sabbath mornings, perhaps church is woven into the fabric of your lifestyle.
3. Perhaps you’re uninterested or unavailable – you just show up because you feel obligated or because someone makes you go but you don’t have any real interest and if you could, you might even say to the church at large: *“Whatever, I’m not interested.”* That’s not to say you aren’t interested in God, you may be very interested in Him, just not church.
4. Or perhaps it’s complicated – you’d like to be deeply engaged in a church family but the season of life you’re in right now makes it extremely difficult, or maybe things like guilt or shame keep you from being deeply engaged because you’re afraid of what people might think of you if they actually knew you.

One of my most favorite passages in scripture is Ephesians 4:1-6:

“Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.”

Ephesians 4:1-6 NLT

Commentators explain that Paul uses the word “one” seven times in these two verses to emphasize the importance of the fact that “The Christian is not supposed to be a solitary pilgrim, he or she belongs to a vital organism, the family of God. The family of God replaces the state, the club, and even the human family as the supreme object of his or her attachment.”

In other words, you may not find belonging in your family as your mother or your father, your sister or brother may have rejected you along time ago. You may not find belonging in a group of friends as you struggle for validation or acceptance of who you are. You may not find belonging even with people who share the same skin color as you, or speak with a similar kind of accent as you, or share the same political views as you.

But the one thing that you can count on is that you belong, you are a vital member, of the family of God. Because of the grace that He has given to you, which is the same grace He is given to me, we are united together with a bond that is greater than anything else.

As you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week, I pray you will find belonging both with God and within your church family.

Invitation:

We believe so strongly in the importance of each person on our campus experiencing belonging within a church family, that we want to invite you to a unique vespers experience this **Friday evening at 8pm at the University Church called "Next Step Vespers"**. Come find where you belong. We will have a special emphasis for graduating seniors to consider how to find a church family to engage with after graduation. Following vespers we'll have "Meet the Churches" - an opportunity to meet post-collegiate young adults and pastors of churches here in the local area as well as within the hubs where many graduates locate after Southern. These individuals are eager to invite you into their church family!

Blessings,

-Pastor Anna Bennett