



First Baptist Church
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A Place of Grace to Believe, Belong, and Become

“FBCE: A Place of Grace to Belong”

Ephesians 2: 11-22 and Ephesians 4:1-16

“Why Belong to a Spiritual Family?”

Ephesians 2:11-22

If you belong to Jesus, then “we are family”! (with special thanks to Sister Sledge!)

1. Belonging helps you develop _____.

- 1) Healthy relationships are marked by _____.
- 2) Healthy relationships are marked by _____.
- 3) Healthy relationships are marked by _____.
- 4) Healthy relationships are marked by _____.

2. Belonging helps you develop _____.

- 1) What are those qualities? Read _____ for starters!
- 2) Are you more like Jesus today than yesterday?

3. Belonging helps you develop _____.

- 1) What _____ your values—name them one by one!
- 2) What is the ultimate _____ of your values—where do they come from?

4. Belonging helps you develop a _____.

- 1) No one can “do it all alone.” Why are you trying to?
- 2) Everyone wants to belong to a loving family. Why not choose to belong to this one?

“What Does it Mean to Belong to this Spiritual Family?”

Ephesians 2:11-22 and Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Belonging to this spiritual family means our _____ to one another is a personal _____ as we all seek to be near to Christ (2: 11-13)

- 1) How close do you feel to Jesus?
- 2) How close to you feel to fellow church members?

Believe, Belong, Become—you can do it!

2. Belonging to this spiritual family means the _____ of each member of this body of Christ is _____ and _____ because we are a fellowship and a family (4: 1-16).

- 1) Unity with diversity demonstrates the mature understanding of our personal calling and corporate identity (vv.1-6).
- 2) Diversity of gifts within this unity demonstrates the reality of grace and maturity (vv. 7-13).
- 3) Harmony within this unity and diversity demonstrates the supremacy of love in everyone’s heart (vv.14-16).

1 Peter 4:17 says, “You should be like one big happy family of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.”

NOTE: Almost any attitude or action that causes disunity is SIN and any structure/organization should promote unity and downplay differences (we are a living body, an organism where ministry is the focus not an organization where maintenance is the focus).

3. Belonging to this spiritual family means a _____ commitment to _____ involvement in and through this fellowship believers in Jesus Christ.

- 1) I will protect the _____ of my church...
 - a. By growing spiritually (Romans 15:16).
 - b. By acting in love toward other members and outsiders (Romans 15:5; 1 Peter 1:22; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
 - c. By following the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
- 2) I will share the _____ of my church...
 - a. By praying for its growth and ministry (1 Thessalonians 1:2)
 - b. By inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
 - c. By warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)
- 3) I will serve in the _____ of my church...
 - a. By discovering my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
 - b. By being equipped to serve by my pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - c. By developing a servant’s heart and spirit (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
- 4) I will support the _____ of my church...
 - a. By attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - b. By living a God-honoring life (Philippians 1:27)
 - c. By giving regularly and generously (1 Corinthians 16:2 and Leviticus 27:30).

**Belonging is good for you, for others, and
for God’s work in the world.**