

"A Place to Belong"
September 17, 2017
Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

Hello! My name is child of the one true King!

John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

You are called to belong, not just believe!

Ephesians 2:19-22 "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

- Jesus is our chief cornerstone.
- We are members of God's household.
- We are being fitted and built together.
- We are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Our relationship is personal but not private.

Romans 12:5 "...so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

1 Timothy 3:14-15 "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

"In churches, membership is often reduced to simply adding your name to a roll, with no requirement or expectations. To Paul, being a 'member' of the church meant being a vital organ of a living body, an indispensable, interconnected part of the body of Christ!" Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren.

"In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?" Romans 12:4-5 (MSG).

Jesus gave his life for the church.

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her..."

We need the church and the church needs us.
It is the place that we belong.

Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrases "one another" or "each other" are used. We are commanded to love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, admonish each other, greet each other, serve each other, teach each other, accept each other, honor each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, submit to each other, and to be devoted to each other.

The Church is God's Family.**We share one another's joys and sorrows.**

1 Corinthians 12:26 "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

We keep one another accountable.

James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

We grow in Christ together.

Ephesians 4:16 "...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

We impact our world together.

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."