

Be-Longing In and not of...

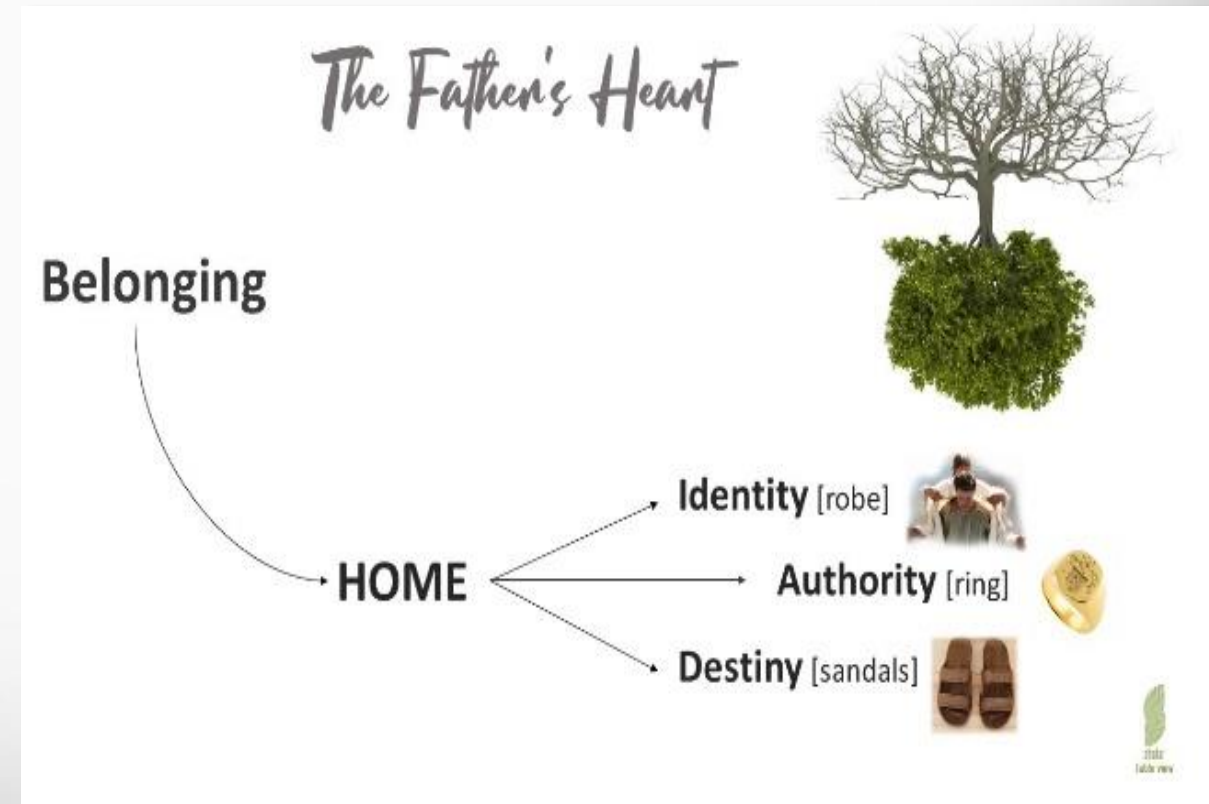
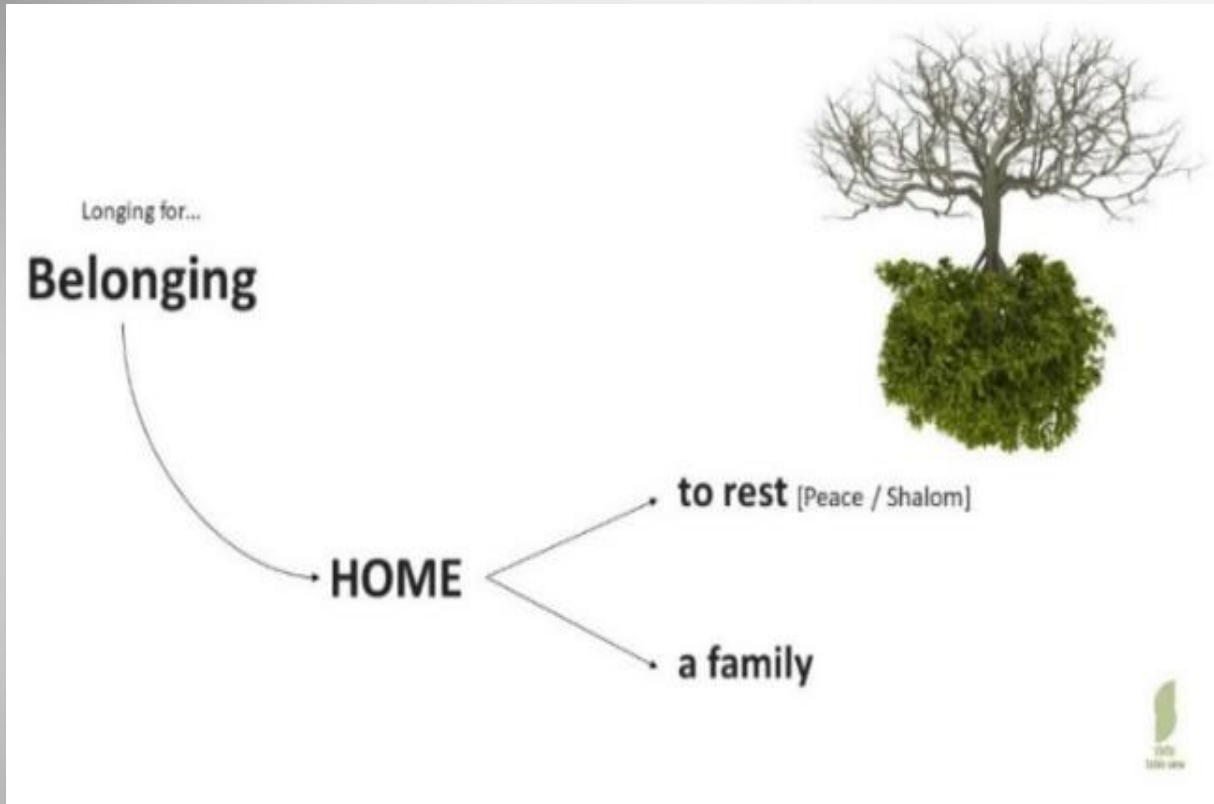
Part 7



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'Be-Longing': We all long to BELONG



1. The Church I Intro:

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 17:14-16

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.



In and not of...



Church = ekklesia

ek meaning “out of” and *kalein* meaning “to call”. Therefore, the root meaning is “to call out of”. The Church consists of people who have been “called out of” sin and the world and who have assembled for a common purpose.

“A called-out assembly or congregation”



The Universal Church of Christ

Church in Scripture

The Local Church



Jesus furthermore is the:

Founder

**Foundation and
Builder of His Church –**

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that
you are Peter, and on this rock I
will build my church, and the gates
of Hades will not overcome it.



Jesus –

Ephesians 1:19-23 ...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



2. 'Be-Longing' to His Church:

2.1 The Universal Church:

Spiritual reality | Who are the members?



Names:

*Bible School

Bride of Christ: 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27. Revelation 19:6-8; Revelation 21:1-11, 19, 20-27 (NIV)

Temple of God: 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16, 17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 21:3.

Body of Christ: Ephesians 1:22-23 22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* Romans 12:4; 1 Corinthians 12:22-27; Ephesians 3:6; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30; Colossians 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15.

The 'body', 'bride' being the Universal Church, finds affect in...

2.2 The Local Church:



1. Church needs to be a place of practical **CONNECTION** with God

“Church is becoming aware of the presence of God.” R. Morris
Word, Worship, Community

Genesis 28:16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said,
“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”

Bethel = House of God



Matthew 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Place of real BELONGING

Remember Jesus' definition of family

2. Practical 'thing' CONSISTING of people in relationship:



The Word is full of the reality of the Local Church -
Paul wrote most of the New Testament in the form of letters
/ epistles. To whom?

1 Corinthians 12 – 14 | Speaks of members of the head

In Ephesians and Colossians | Paul speaks of the head, Jesus

Clear: Body analogy for both Universal and Local Church

3. Local Church: Where you find your place:

Called out ones in a body



A. Different parts:

1 Corinthians 12 Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”

it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.... 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.



B. Leadership:



Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

4. Belonging is for equipping and community:

To continue and complete the mission of Jesus

Ephesians 4:11 And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.





- **Evangelism and discipleship:** Matthew 28:18-20
- **Edification and learning:** 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26; 2 Corinthians 12:19, Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- **Worship:** John 4:23-24; John 20:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2
- **To serve and love**

5. Church family: You are celebrated and not tolerated



2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.



In conclusion, an exhortation:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, 25 not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

‘In and not of’ I Called OUT

In and not of...



Prayer

Hebrews 10:24 And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, 25 not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.



LIFE

See you next week

