

# Growing In Belonging

Healthy for Life #5 - Pastor Gary Combs – February 10, 2013 – Romans 12:3-13

## Why do we have this need for belonging?

**Because God** \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone ...

**Because we can't grow as believers** \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 2:19 (NIV) He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Romans 12:3-13 (ESV) <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. <sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

## GROWING IN FOUR LEVELS OF CHRISTIAN BELONGING

**LEVEL 1:** \_\_\_\_\_. **Choose to belong to Christ's body of believers.**

Romans 12:5 (NLT) ...We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Ephesians 2:19 (Liv) ...you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

**LEVEL 2:** \_\_\_\_\_. **Share Christ's gifts to edify others.**

Acts 2:44 (NLT) And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had.

John 15:13 (NIV84) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

WE CAN SHARE OUR:

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1 Corinthians 14:12 (NIV) Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

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Proverbs 27:17 (TEV) "People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."

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1 Peter 4:9 (NCV) "Open your homes to each other."

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Galatians 6:2 (NLT) "Share each other's troubles and problems."

**LEVEL 3:** \_\_\_\_\_. **Start doing your part in Christ's Kingdom work.**

Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV) I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

1 Corinthians 3:9 (TEV) We are partners working together for God.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) The whole Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love.

**LEVEL 4:** \_\_\_\_\_. **Love other Christ-followers as family.**

Romans 12:10 (GW) Be devoted to each other like a loving family.

1 John 4:20-21 (GW) Whoever says, "I love God," but hates another believer is a liar. People who don't love other believers, whom they have seen, can't love God, whom they have not seen. Christ has given us this commandment: The person who loves God must also love other believers.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV84) Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as

mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Romans 1:6 (NIV84) And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.