Week 3: Made to Belong

Overview: As we close out the series, we will explore the truth that when we are saved through Jesus, we belong to something greater than ourselves—the Kingdom of Heaven. Our citizenship in God's Kingdom gives us an identity and calling that extends beyond our time here on earth. Because we belong to Christ, we are invited into a purpose bigger than ourselves and longer than our lifetime. We were made by God, made for God, and made to belong to His Kingdom.

Key Scripture: Galatians 3:26-29

Supporting Scripture: Philippians 3:20-21

Content

Key Takeaway: Because we belong to Jesus, we belong to His kingdom, and His people

Key Points:

- We belong to something Greater (Galatians 3:26-27)
    - We belong to God's family
        - In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith
        - Our belonging begins with Jesus, not our background, achievements, popularity, or personality
        - Through faith in Christ, we are welcomed into God's family
    - We have been given a new identity
        - We have "put on Christ"
        - Our identity is no longer primarily defined by what the world says about us; we are not defined by who we are, rather whose we are
- We belong to a different kingdom (Galatians 3:28 + Philippians 3:20-21)
    - Our citizenship is in heaven
        - We live in this world, but this world is not ultimately our home
        - Our deepest and truest identity is not found in our status, culture, school, friend group, or reputation
            - Rather it is found in and through Christ
    - Kingdom belonging breaks down barriers
        - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female."
        - The gospel doesn't erase our differences, but our differences no longer determine who is worthy of belonging.

        - The Kingdom brings people together who might otherwise never belong together.
        - The world says, “You belong because you're like me.” The gospel says, “You belong because you belong to Jesus.”
- Because we belong, we live for something bigger (Galatians 3:29)
    - We belong to a story bigger than ourselves
        - “If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”
        - We are joining a story that began long before us and will continue long after us; God’s kingdom existed before we arrived and will continue after we’re gone
    - Kingdom people are gifted for Kingdom purposes
        - God doesn’t just give us a family and an identity – He equips us to contribute to it (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 12:4-6)
            - Our lives, relationships, gifts, work, school, and influence can all be used for the King.
        - “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”- your gifts were never meant to just sere you; they were given for the Kingdom
        - Belonging isn’t passive membership – it’s active participation. A citizen of the Kingdom isn’t a spectator; every believer has a role to play in the family business!
        - Because we know where we belong, we can live with purpose here and now.

Gospel Application: Jesus doesn't ask us to earn a place in His Kingdom; He makes a way for us to belong through His death and resurrection. In Christ, we are welcomed into God's family and given a new citizenship. Because we belong to Jesus, we are free to stop searching for belonging in the world and start living for the Kingdom we already belong to.

Key Question: Where am I looking for belonging, and does it match where Jesus has called me to belong?

Application

Activity Suggestions

- Incorporate a group game that involves unity and problem-solving. Use this as an illustration for unity of the church body, that we all serve different roles in Christ's kingdom, but all belong to Him.
- Spiritual Gifts Test and discussion: https://thechapel.com/spiritual-gifts/
- Give a piece of paper to students and encourage them to write down the answers to these prompts:
    - **If I really believed I belonged to Jesus…**
        - How would I treat people who are different from me?
        - How would I handle rejection?
        - How would I respond when I don't fit in?
        - How would I think about my popularity?
        - Students can talk about these as they go into small groups.

Community Group Questions

- Describe a time where you either felt like you "belonged" or didn't belong?
- If we are in Christ, this world is not our true home. What does that mean to you? How do you feel about that truth?
- Where do you find yourself looking for belonging right now (friend group, sports team, social media, achievement)? How is that different from belonging because you belong to Jesus?
- Spiritual gifts aren't just for "super Christians" or people going into ministry. What's something you're good at, drawn to, or naturally do for others, and how might that actually be a gift God wants to use for His Kingdom (not just your own life)?
- Galatians 3:28 reminds us that the gospel breaks down barriers that can divide people. What kinds of barriers do you see among people your age? Why do you think barriers exist?