

TITLE AND NUMBER: 64. Belonging



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27

For we were all baptised 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 (v13)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (v27)

LOOKING FURTHER: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Many of us go through life wanting to belong; we want to “fit in” and be accepted and valued by others. This is natural and can be good. However, sometimes this can lead us to do wrong things to try and fit in with groups we want to belong to.

In this passage, Paul celebrates our differences. He explains how the very fact that we are all different helps us belong to the body of Christ.

What does he mean when he says we are the body of Christ? In Ephesians 2:19-22, he explains that we are part of God’s family and household. When we become Christians and invite Jesus to come and live in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, then it is by living in us that He is present in the world. Jesus is no longer in the world as a physical person, but when we become part of the body of Christ, we bring Jesus to those we meet.

How is it then that we belong to the body of Christ? In 1 Corinthians 12:13, we read that we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body. We may have been baptised in different ways depending what church we attend. Some of us will have been baptised as babies; some of us will have been baptised as adults by being completely immersed in a large pool or even the sea or a river; some of us will still be waiting for an opportunity to be baptised. Whichever of these applies, when we turn from our old ways and invite Jesus into our lives we all receive the same Holy Spirit who is the presence of Jesus in us.

From that moment, we all belong to the body of Christ, as Paul declares in verse 27, “Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is part of it.” Praise God. When you take that step of inviting Christ into your life, from that moment you belong! Welcome to the body of Christ!

Reflections:

- Do you sometimes feel that you don’t fit in? Read verse 27 over and over, emphasising a different word each time. Take on board the truth that you belong to the body of Christ.
- The rest of the passage likens us to different parts of a physical body. What do you think you bring to the body of Christ? For example, are you like a foot who goes where you are needed at the right time, or a hand who helps someone with something they are less able at?
- We keep our physical bodies fit and strong by exercising. What could you do to exercise your spiritual body?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

