



LOVE  
YOUR  
CHURCH



# belong

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions in conjunction with the videos and worksheets  
in the small group kit for *Belong* by Barnabas Piper.

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**BARNABAS PIPER**

## SESSION 1

1. What groups, communities, or causes do you belong to? What is good about each of them? *Refer to the session 1 worksheet to flesh this out further.*
2. What makes the church similar or different to those groups. *Refer to the session 1 worksheet to flesh this out further.*
3. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What are we called to do here and what should the result be? How do we see both the moral obligation to belong and the goodness of belonging in these verses?
4. Read John 17:20-26. What does Jesus say he has already done and will do for us (v 22, 26)? What does he pray for us (v 21, 23 24)?
5. We'll look in more detail in future chapters at what it means to belong to the church. But for now, what do you think the "oneness" that Jesus talks about looks like (or could look like) in local churches today?
6. What will you pray for your church as a result of what you've read and discussed?

## SESSION 2

1. Read Romans 8:14-17. What difference does it make, according to this passage, to have been adopted into God's family? What impact might this have on our sense of belonging in church?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. What two key mistakes does Paul address in verses 14-20 and 21-26? What might it look like to make those mistakes, and how can we avoid them? (Read p 36-38 for more help with this.)
3. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. How do you respond to the idea that you are part of a "building"? How do you respond to the idea that you are part of God's "dwelling place" and "holy temple"?
4. Why is it tempting to think of God's mission as something pursued by "lone rangers"? Why is the kind of activity we read about in Acts 4:32-35 better? (See p 42-43.)
5. What are the implications of all these passages for the way we treat those who are suffering, those with particular talents, and those who are part of the community without being believers in Christ?
6. Think about your experience of walking into church. What is one step you could take to treat your fellow church members as family members or as fellow body parts? What difference will it make to remember that you are being built together into a temple and that God has designed you as his mission team to bring light into the world? *Refer to the session 2 worksheet to flesh this out further.*

### SESSION 3

1. Read Matthew 9:10-13. How can we learn from Jesus' words in our churches today? What does it look like, practically, to show mercy to one another?
2. "The church is where God intends for Jesus to do his work [of cleansing and healing]" (p 54). Does this surprise you? How does James 5:16 say we gain healing?
3. Read p 55-57. Imagine you were getting ready to share something deep and honest with other church members. What difference would it make to you to meet with each of the three attitudes Piper describes?
4. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. What is freeing and what is intimidating about this calling for you personally?
5. Look at the list of "one anothers" on p 61-62. Which of these would you most like to get better at? *Refer to the session 3 worksheet to flesh this out further.*
6. What small step could you take together to build (even more of) a gospel culture in your church?

## SESSION 4

1. Read Philippians 2:2-7. How is each of Paul's commands in verses 2-5 exemplified by Jesus? How might they be exemplified by us?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-7. Why should the statements in verses 4-7 lead to the actions described in verses 1-3?
3. Think of some disagreements or conflicts that might arise in a church. How does Ephesians 4:1-7 help us to discern which differences need to simply be laid aside and which should be pursued or dealt with? What impact does this passage have on how we go about resolving conflicts, disagreements, or hurts?
4. Piper writes that we already have the mind of Christ (p 73) and that God's grace equips us to obey (p 75-76). He also writes that we need to fight for unity (p 77-79). How does being aware of what we have been given in Christ motivate and help us to fight for unity? *Refer to the session 4 worksheet to flesh this out further.*
5. Read Colossians 3:12-14. Discuss what unity through love looks like and how this is different from the unity of niceness or againstness.
6. In what ways might your church be in danger of veering towards the unity of niceness or the unity of againstness? Be specific—what situations might lead to one or the other, and what are some ways of avoiding those two false unities?

## SESSION 5

1. What kinds of things might (rightly or wrongly) make someone feel they don't belong in church? *Refer to the session 5 worksheet to flesh this and some of the following questions out further.*
2. What are some good reasons to leave a church? What are some bad reasons?
3. Read Revelation 2:1-7. What is the problem with the church in Ephesus? What do you think this could look like in a church today?
4. What are the two possibilities about the future of the church in Ephesus? How might this encourage someone who is frustrated by the lack of love in their church?
5. What's the difference between being disappointed by church and being hurt by church (see p 93-94)? What's the difference in how we respond?
6. Is there anything that might make it difficult for someone to feel like they belong in your church? What could you do to lay down your preferences for their sake?

## SESSION 6

1. Read John 15:13-17. What does it mean to be friends with Jesus, according to this passage?
2. Why is loving one another an essential result of being friends with Jesus?
3. Read through the statements in italics on pages 103-106. Which of them do you find most striking or wonderful? *Refer to the session 6 worksheet to flesh this out further.*
4. How could each of these truths about Jesus help us to gain a sense of belonging in the church?
5. How can you better reflect Jesus' character as a friend of sinners in your church? Come up with some specific ideas.
6. What is one thing you will change about your attitude or behavior toward others in your church as a result of reading this book?