



WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

October 20, 2013 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 3: YOU'RE CALLED TO BELONG

Purpose 1: You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

Purpose 2: You Were Formed for God's Family

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

You must move from being God's **CREATION** to becoming his **CHILD**.

John 1:12 (ESV)

12 But to all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his [Jesus'] name, he gave the right to become children of God.

As Part of God's family, we have both **PRIVILEGES** and **RESPONSIBILITIES**.

God calls you to love his family, the Church.

Unless you learn to love and connect to God's family, you cannot fulfill the purpose he's created you for. You were formed for his family.

Four Levels of Loving God's Family (Fellowship):

1. The fellowship of **SHARING** together.
2. The fellowship of **BELONGING** together.
3. The fellowship of **SERVING** together.
4. The fellowship of **SUFFERING** together.

1:10 HOMEWORK

Open Your Group in Prayer

"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

1. If people truly understood the significance of God's eternal plan for them described in this verse, what kind of response would they have? How would they feel about themselves? How would they feel about God? What would they say or do?

"In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Ephesians 2:21-22

2. God's church is like a temple in which all the pieces of the building support each other. According to the verse above, what are you being built to become and who will live there?

3. Referring to **Ephesians 2:21-22** above, in which ways are we being built together to become a dwelling place where God lives? What does this actually look like in the lives of church members?

4. In a support group, the members provide emotional stability for one another. Name people in your life from whom you receive emotional support, and people to whom you give emotional support. If you do not have these types of relationships in your life, name places where you can seek emotional support and try joining such a group.

(Jesus:) "Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NLT)

5. God's church is like a garden (specifically a vineyard) in which people's lives become productive and fruitful. What do you think "produce fruit" and "do nothing" mean in this verse above? What do "produce fruit" and "do nothing" look like in people's lives?

6. What do we have to do to follow Jesus' command to "remain in me" in the verse above? What does this look like in your life? Is it something others can see, or is it something private between you and Jesus? What should it look like?

7. God's church provides spiritual security to protect and care for his family. What are some elements of the church that provide this kind of security? What does this security look like?

8. In God's family, we learn our true identity. What relationships define much of your identity, whether through family, friends, work, or a club? How can you allow your identity in Christ to be more significant in each of those relationships?

9. **Romans 12:4-5** says that "each of us has different work to do." Have you discovered the types of work or purposes God shaped you to do in the body of Christ? If so, what are they? If not, seek suggestions from other group members.