

MADE TO BELONG

Scripture used: [Romans 12:4-5 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued with the series *Made for This* with his sermon titled "Made to Belong". In this series, he has helped us to explore many questions: *Who am I? What am I here? (Purpose), Is this all there is? (Meaning), What am I supposed to do with my life? (Direction)*. This week Pastor Hurmon added: *Where do I belong? (Security)*. Many moments in life can lead us to feel detached and isolated. Stages in life and suffering can cause us to ponder where we fit in and belong. In moments such as this, where can we turn for our security and belonging?

KEY POINTS

1. **You were made to belong in a:** [Psalms 68:6](#)
 - a. **Biological family:** We are born into an earthly family. Our families are broken and human, and sometimes we are born to one and adopted by another, but we all begin our time on earth belonging to an earthly family.
 - b. **Spiritual family:** With God as our Father, we can belong to a spiritual family. The Church is Jesus' solution for a place for us to belong. Jesus promised us that where two or more of His followers are gathered, He is with us ([Matthew 18:20](#)) and that He would build the Church and nothing would conquer His community of believers ([Matthew 16:18](#)). His spiritual family belongs to each other ([Romans 12:5](#)). To believe in Christ as our Savior is to belong to His spiritual family. Belonging means to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind, but it also means that God loves us with all His heart, soul, and mind! ([Matthew 22:37-39](#)) We fit in the middle of God's unconditional love and the Church's unconditional love for us. ([1 John 3:16](#))
2. **Benefits of Belonging to the Church and the Spiritual Family of Jesus's Followers**
 - a. **Worship**
 - i. **Cultivates our gratitude for God:** worshiping God together helps us to not forget His many benefits [Psalms 103:1-5 \(KJV\)](#). We can join the Church in acknowledging who God is in spite of our circumstances.
 - ii. **Reminds us of God's greatness and goodness:** the majority of worship music throughout the history of the Church points to God's character and His greatness.
 - b. **Teaching: Grows faith and strengthens our faithfulness in Jesus.** We are provided opportunities to hear the word of God and apply this to our lives.
 - c. **Fellowship: (New Family) Helps us to navigate and face life's challenges while being committed to a community of Jesus' followers.** This fellowship helps us to not think too highly of ourselves that we are above needing a church family, but also not too lowly of ourselves that we are not worthy of belonging. ([Romans 12:3 \(NIV\)](#)). In our church family, we can practice and receive grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
 - d. **Development in God's Love Laboratory:** We are given a place to love others ([Romans 12:9](#))
 - i. **Learn to serve others as an expression of love**
 - ii. **Learn to love imperfect people on purpose**

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Reflect on your biological/adoptive family. Ask God to reveal to you places of brokenness and/or places of love and compassion that came from that family where you first belonged. How has that experience affected your experience with the spiritual family of the Church? Where might you still need to seek God's healing and renewed hope by belonging to His family?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider what stage of life you are in right now or perhaps have been in the past. When have you felt isolated and detached? Did a certain group or person help you to reconnect? Have you had times when the Church family has helped you to feel a sense of belonging? Have you ever been on the giving side of helping someone feel a sense of belonging?
- 3) **DO** - Don't just attend church, but belong. To belong means to be an active member of a church family. If you are a follower of Jesus, and you have not been baptized, that could be the beginning of belonging. Consider serving your church family or perhaps joining a life group. More info is available at www.nbccbayarea.com!