

# The Belonging

Sam D. Mathews

## **Introduction:** Groupie illustration

Have you heard of this term- *Groupie*? In essence, all it means is a group of people who are absolutely 100% obsessed with a famous person or pop star. It's more popular in the music and film industry. Remember the era of Michael Jackson? People were so obsessed with him, they would do anything to get his attention! Same thing with Justin Bieber, crowds would do anything to watch him perform, paparazzi as well. It's a strong bond that they create within even if they don't know the players personally.

Everyone has a sense to belong to something, including me and you...

- For example, I love to be with people who like football or talk about football... You put me in a group of people that talk about fashion, and I'm out! In the same way, each of us have a strong sense to belong...
- South Indian living in North India, he craves for Dosa & Idli. Because that's where he belongs and that's what makes him comfortable. He needs it!
- More examples...

Now, track back to the past to Genesis 1. We see only God is in the picture, His Spirit was hovering over. He creates everything with His Word! Then comes **Genesis 1:26**, Let US make MAN in OUR Image. We were **created to belong to God**, to have that perfect relationship with Him. That was our original state! We see Sin enters the World through Adam and that sense of belonging gets cut off. It's created this barrier, it's something we can't do anything about.

Look around at the state of the World around us today. We are so bound by Sin and it has blinded our spiritual eyes to a God.

- Current affairs example, Homosexuality, Social Media, Premature relationships, Corruption & Injustice
- These seem to be the major topics of today...
- We're struggling as a culture, we are so far away from even knowing what righteousness means.
- In fact, **Romans 1:30** says we are inventors of doing evil. Meaning we create ways to disobey God
- We put our belonging to something that's not perfect, which makes us imperfect

I'm also talking about believers. There seems to be so much noise around right? Noise that make us cling to something... We see believers so lost, especially young people, wanting to belong to something else. We're trapped in the Sound of Culture (Illustration: KIKI) We don't want to associate ourselves with the Church or God because it's not cool or relevant anymore? Because our friends and peers might disown us?

Then comes the other spectrum, we have tried our best to belong to God, we have done everything, yet it's not enough (**Isaiah 64:6 & Romans 3:23**). Even God's people in the Old Testament through the Law couldn't do anything to please God. Simply because they had to fulfil the entire law, which is impossible! Sin has done its damage...

But God did not leave us alone, He took upon Himself the mandate to get us back. Now Here comes the good news, **Jesus Christ** enters the scene 2000 years ago to get back all that Sin has taken from mankind. To restore our **true state and belonging!**

**We are called to belong...**

**To Christ first...**

- **Luke 19:10**, Jesus' ultimate mission was to **seek and save the lost**
- God loved us so much that he would send Jesus to die on a pole for a sinner like me, think about that for a moment.
- Look at the drastic step God took upon Himself... To bring us back, a man would **rarely** die for another man if he had some value or if he was someone important. Yet Christ died for us while we were sinners. He died while I was dirty and in SIN)
- What kind of love is that? Illustration: Garbage man
- On the Cross, He defeated the enemy once for all for us to reign in victory and righteousness (**Colossians 2:15**) Jesus broke the power of Sin (**Galatians 3:13**)
- Now we can live a life free to receive from God (**Romans 5:17**)
- **David & Goliath Illustration** (Sin does not control you!)
- Jesus also came To **build His Church, His People for greater Glory...**
- Which brings me to my next point....

**To each other...** (Church, Lifegroups, Youth)

- We were created to be together as God's people. Look at God Himself.
- We were created in His image, so we are called to community. It's our purpose. Everything is GOOD, God was praising Himself yet in **Gen 2:18**

- It is NOT GOOD for a man to be ALONE. We are not called to be lonely, isolated etc. We are the church of Jesus, that's me, you and everyone in this House. We are His bride and Jesus our bridegroom
- The Church is the place where people can see God's true picture, may we be THE Church of Jesus! (**1 Peter 2:5**, living stones to make God's Building). When we come together we make this beautiful spiritual building, with Christ our cornerstone.

### **The Greatest Command (Matthew 22:36-40)**

**The one thing the Enemy is scared about! (1 John 4:4), Mark 4- the enemy comes to take away the seed (Verse 15).** Sometimes we're focused on the wrong things!

### **A call to be together....**

- We need each other, look at the world around us, it's so easy to go outside, we've got so many options and communities...
- Let's stay connected, we see in the Book of Acts (**Acts 1:14 & 2:42**), the early believers, they had so much power and grace I believe because they were together (**Acts 12 example**)
- Instruction from **Hebrews 10:24-25**, do NOT neglect this...
- Learning from the church in Thessalonica, **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

### **The Blessing...**

- God Manifest' Himself, **Psalms 22:3**
- We grow and Impart, **1 Corinthians 12:26**
- We walk in the light, **1 John 1:7**
- Here's the truth, The Church will prevail...Jesus says in **Matthew 16:18**

### **1 Peter 2:9 (Chosen in the midst of this dark generation)**

The best way to experience community is to be part of it. So get in, attend a Church Group, serve in as many areas as you can and experience community life. Welcome aboard! All our welcome...

### **Conclusion...**

Let's make a decision today. You are in control of who you desire, worship and belong, the thing I observe about our generation is we're so distracted with all the noise and trends around us and we tend to find our image in things that are so worthless in

eternity's sight. Let's not be caught with popular culture, let's set our minds to things above.

Let's be like the Psalmist...

- **Psalms 27:4- One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord**
- **Psalms 34:3- Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.**

Apostle Paul in the new testament after going through all that he went through as a follower of Jesus, he could've quit and said I'm out yet even then, he says in **1 Corinthians 2:1- For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**

Let's leave this place with a sense to belong, to Christ and HIS Church. This is our true state and calling. You may be sitting here where you once had that love and affection and it's somehow disappeared for some reason. Jesus is here and He's longing for you. He's not far away, He's closer than ever before...