FOR BY THE GRACE GIVEN ME I SAY TO EVERY ONE OF YOU: DO NOT THINK OF YOURSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN YOU OUGHT, BUT RATHER THINK OF YOURSELF WITH SOBER JUDGMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAITH GOD HAS DISTRIBUTED TO EACH OF YOU. FOR JUST AS EACH OF US HAS ONE BODY WITH MANY MEMBERS, AND THESE MEMBERS DO NOT ALL HAVE THE SAME

ROMANS 12:3-5

FUNCTION, SO IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY, FORM ONE BODY, AND EACH MEMBER BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS.

ROMANS 12:3-5



Why we (still) need to be together













CONSUMER RELATIONSHIP







COVENANT RELATIONSHIP







BELONGING CHANGES HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES





FOR BY THE GRACE GIVEN ME I SAY TO EVERY ONE OF YOU: DO NOT THINK OF YOURSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN YOU OUGHT, BUT RATHER THINK OF YOURSELF WITH SOBER JUDGMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAITH GOD HAS DISTRIBUTED TO EACH OF YOU.

ROMANS 12:3





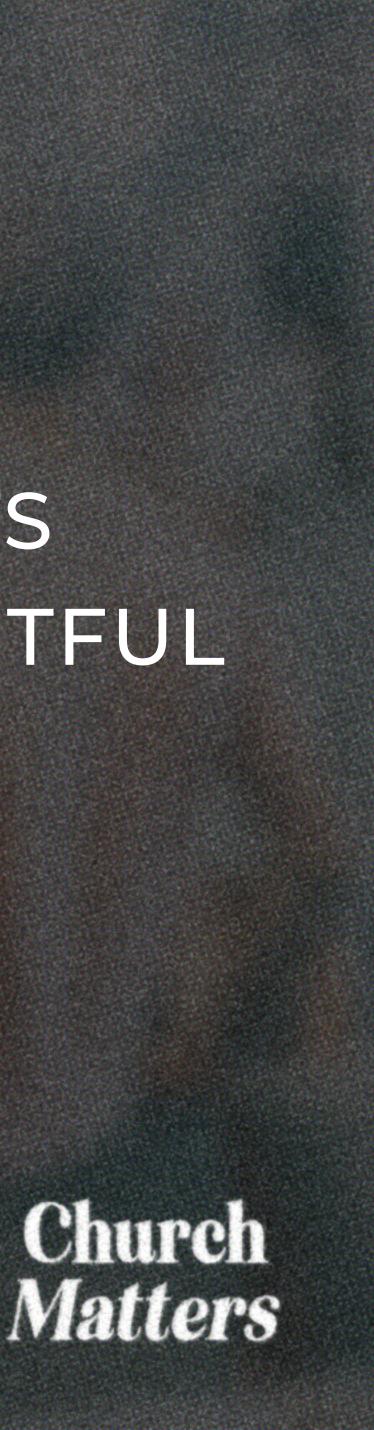
SPIRITUAL FORMATION OCCURS PRIMARILY IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY. PEOPLE WHO REMAIN CONNECTED WITH THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH ALMOST INVARIABLY GROW IN SELF-UNDERSTANDING, AND THEY MATURE IN THEIR ABILITY TO RELATE IN HEALTHY WAYS TO GOD AND TO THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. [...] LONG-TERM INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE



THE CRUCIBLE OF GENUINE PROGRESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. PEOPLE WHO STAY ALSO GROW. PEOPLE WHO LEAVE DO NOT GROW. WE ALL KNOW PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSUMED WITH SPIRITUAL WANDERLUST. BUT WE NEVER GET TO KNOW THEM VERY WELL BECAUSE THEY CANNOT SEEM TO STAY PUT. THEY MOVE ALONG FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH, EVER SEARCHING FOR A



CONGREGATION THAT WILL BETTER SATISFY THEIR FELT NEEDS. LIKE TREES REPEATEDLY TRANSPLANTED FROM SOIL TO SOIL, THESE SPIRITUAL NOMADS FAIL TO PUT DOWN ROOTS AND SELDOM EXPERIENCE LASTING AND FRUITFUL GROWTH IN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIVES.





BELONGING CHANGES HOW WE VIEW OUR PROBLEMS







IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS AND SEES A BROTHER OR SISTER IN NEED BUT HAS NO PITY ON THEM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN THAT PERSON? DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.

1 JOHN 3:17-18







BELONGING CHANGES HOW WE NAVIGATE







RUNNING AWAY DOES PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM THE AWKWARDNESS OF A HURTFUL RELATIONSHIP. IT IS THE EASY WAY OUT IN THE SHORT TERM, AND THERE ARE LEGITIMATE REASONS TO LEAVE A LOCAL CHURCH. BUT PEOPLE WHO LEAVE TO ESCAPE THE HARD WORK OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION ARE OFTEN DESTINED TO REPEAT THE CYCLE OF RELATIONAL DYSFUNCTION



WITH ANOTHER PERSON IN ANOTHER CHURCH SOMEWHERE ELSE IN TOWN.





THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE. BEAR WITH EACH OTHER AND FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IF ANY OF YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST SOMEONE. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU.

EPHESIANS 4:12-13





BELONGING CHANGES THE WAY WE RELATE TO JESUS





STEPS TO BELONG:



STEPS TO BELONG: • JOIN A LIFEGROUP



STEPS TO BELONG: JOIN A LIFEGROUP TAKE THE CITY CHURCH CLASS





STEPS TO BELONG: JOIN A LIFEGROUP TAKE THE CITY CHURCH CLASS (CITYCHURCHKNOX.COM/MEMBERSHIP)



