

BELONG CAMPAIGN INTRODUCTION FROM BELIEVERS TO BELONGERS 8/2/15

Ephesians 2:19-22

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him 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.”

BELONG CHALLENGE

B- be at church, bring someone, bless and welcome everyone as guests of honor.

E- experience community (life on the fellow ship) by going to a life group.

L- learn to love more and walk in unity, look for a place to serve.

O- open our hearts, homes, tables, new services, and youth building to our city.

N- know others in church better, learn names, know ways they need prayer.

G- get plugged in as a committed member of a local church family.

I. Introduction

- A. We are introducing this 6 week campaign aimed at helping us all discover and experience God’s purpose and plan for the church in our lives. God wants to really help us understand what it means not just to come to church but to unleash the potential there is to grow through church and to be the church to our friends, family, and the world.
- B. We are asking God to help hundreds of people to move from being just believers in the church to true _____. It is only as we belong in Christ with others that we will have the potential to _____ all that God wants us to be.
- C. The book of Ephesians was written to help us know what, in God’s mind, it means for us to be the church. In this passage (2:19-22) we see the challenge, the promise, and the process for becoming the church Jesus died to have.
 1. Don’t _____ for being a “lone ranger” Christian, for being strangers with each other and divided from each other.
 - *“It is not good for a man to be alone.” (Gen. 2:18)*
 - *“Two are better off (more than twice as good) as one, for they will help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.” (Eccl. 4:10-12)*
 2. The promise is God’s _____. (2:21)
“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done... For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them.” (Mat. 18:19-20)
 3. The process is being _____ together by aligning and submitting our lives to Jesus the “cornerstone.”
“Christianity has not been tried and found lacking; it has been found difficult and has therefore often been left untried.” –G.K. Chesterton

II. Reasons why the cost of becoming knitted together as a church is worth the price

- A. The church is at the center of God's heart and purpose for everything and it is through the church we discover and excel in God's purpose for our life. We cannot fulfill God's purpose for our life _____ any more than an ear could fulfill its purpose apart from the head.
- *"At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church you see is not, peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence." (Eph. 1:22-23 MSG)*
 - *"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Eph. 3:10-11)*
 - *"We are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its _____ from Christ's Body as a whole, not the other way around. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his Body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?" (Rom. 12:4-5 MSG)*
- B. The church is God's _____; it is as an army, we can overcome any attack. Alone we are sitting ducks.
- *"And (put up) the shield of faith by which you will quench all of the fiery darts of the evil one." (Eph. 6:16)*
 - *"I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail!" (Mat. 18:16)*
- C. The church is the place God inhabits our praises, satisfies our heart and helps us realize the highest purpose of our life which is _____ with God.
"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." (Ps. 22:3)
- D. The church is where we are encouraged and _____ to go forward.
- *"They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." (Isa. 40:31)*
 - *"Encourage each other everyday while it is still called today, so that No one's heart becomes hard by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb. 3:13)*
 - *"Let us consider one another how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but encouraging one another more and more as you see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:24-25)*
- E. It is in the context of church that we _____ to our full potential to be like Christ.
"Christ's Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow..." (Eph. 4:26 NLT)
- F. It is in serving as part of the churches that we achieve the highest possible form of _____, making the greatest difference for time and eternity. Significance can't come by success, salary, status. It only comes by _____ a great purpose.
- The church is the hope of the world!** The good the world does is temporary, but the work of the gospel lasts forever!

(Answers: I. belongs, become, settle, habitation, fitted II. Alone, meaning, covering, intimacy, energized, grow, significance, serving)