

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**

A large, diverse crowd of people is shown in a church setting, likely during a service or event. The people are seated in rows, and the atmosphere appears to be one of community and shared experience. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# Church *Matters*

Why we *(still)* need  
to be together

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# ROMANS 12

V. 3-5

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# CONSUMER RELATIONSHIP

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# COVENANT

## RELATIONSHIP

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BELONGING CHANGES  
**HOW WE VIEW  
OURSELVES**

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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**

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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

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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

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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.

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BELONGING CHANGES  
**HOW WE VIEW  
OUR PROBLEMS**

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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**

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BELONGING CHANGES

# HOW WE NAVIGATE CONFLICT

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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

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WITH ANOTHER PERSON IN ANOTHER CHURCH  
SOMEWHERE ELSE IN TOWN.

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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**

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BELONGING CHANGES  
**THE WAY WE  
RELATE TO JESUS**

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# STEPS TO BELONG:

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# STEPS TO BELONG:

- JOIN A LIFE GROUP

## **STEPS TO BELONG:**

- JOIN A LIFE GROUP
- TAKE THE CITY CHURCH CLASS



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- JOIN A LIFE GROUP
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([CITYCHURCHKNOX.COM/MEMBERSHIP](http://CITYCHURCHKNOX.COM/MEMBERSHIP))

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