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# Belonging

## Victory Life Church

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Saturday & Sunday, June 6-7, 2017

*We have a deep seated need to belong - to be loved, valued, and accepted. We mask it with a fear of rejection, we are tempted to try and fit a mold, desperately seeking approval and attention. We spend a lot of energy and effort trying to posture ourselves - trying to feel superior to others, maybe by money or power. We feel shame when we don't "measure up"; our sin has made us feel "lesser than" or "below" others. We struggle under the weight of our parents or spouse or friends or social networks expectations of us. We are often haunted by the question: "Am I enough?"*

John 1:10-12 (NLT) He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they **rejected** him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become **children** of God.

Jesus Encounters 3 People who have been rejected by the community:

*Jesus cleanses a leper - **Luke 5:12-14 (NLT)***

**Leviticus 13:45-46 (ESV)**

*Jesus forgives a sinful woman - Luke 7:36-50*

**Luke 7:44-50 (NLT)**

*Jesus calls a Tax Collector - **Luke 5:27-32 (NLT)***

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)** But God showed his great **love** for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners**.

"You are enough."

What if we see "belonging" through the lens of what we extend to others versus what we desire for ourselves? Belonging is a gift; a gift we desire to receive, but a necessity to give.

**Romans 12:13 (NLT)** When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. **Always be eager to practice hospitality.**

Be a person who makes others feel like they belong. Its a part of our ministry of reconciliation. People needing to belong do not need to be met with people who refuse to give it.