

I AM HERE TO BE PART OF A FAMILY

*God is the one who made all things, and all things are for His glory. He wanted to have many children share His glory...*

Hebrews 2:10 (NCV)

❖ God wants you to be a MEMBER of His FOREVER FAMILY.

1. God's second purpose for my life is this: God FORMED me for His FAMILY.

*God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.*

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

2. God's family is called the CHURCH.

*I am writing this to you... <sup>15</sup>so you will know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (GW)

3. God's second calling on my life is this: That I BELONG to His CHURCH

*You are among those who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

Romans 1:6 (NLT)

❖ The Five Clear Benefits to Belonging to God's Family, the Church:

1. As a part of God's FAMILY, I learn my TRUE IDENTITY.

*Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.*

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

➤ Key Truth: In Christ you have a NEW IDENTITY, you are a CHILD of GOD.

*Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.*

Hebrews 2:11 (CEV)

2. As a part of God's TEMPLE, I am SUPPORTED by OTHERS.

*In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:21-22 (NIV)

- Key Truth: I need OTHERS in my life to help me STAND up and stay STRONG.

*I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.*

Romans 1:12 (NCV)

3. As a part of Christ's BODY, I discover my UNIQUE VALUE.

*Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. <sup>5</sup>So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others.*

Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

- Key Truth: You can't fulfill your LIFE PURPOSE outside of GOD'S BODY.

*If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And what would you think if you heard an ear say, "I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye?" Would that make it any less a part of the body?*

1 Corinthians 12:15-16 (LB)

4. As a part of God's FLOCK, I am PROTECTED and CARED for.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing.*

1 Peter 5:2 (NIV)

- Key Truth: As a follower of Jesus Christ, I am called to be a PART of His FLOCK.

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

5. As a part of God's GARDEN, I am CONNECTED and PRODUCTIVE.

*"Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me. <sup>5</sup>Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing."*

John 15:4-5 (LB)

- ❖ Closing Truth: God created the CHURCH to help meet your GREATEST NEEDS.