

Our Shared Struggle to Feel Like We Belong

Have you ever walked into a room and felt everyone's eyes shift in your direction? Or worse—felt like no one noticed you at all? I have. Those situations can be hurtful because within all of us is a yearning to belong.

The gospel of Jesus Christ brings us together. But sometimes our differing circumstances can make it **hard to feel like we belong**. Among the many individuals who make up the Church, there are new converts who might be **trying to find their way**. On page 70, I share how my perspective on belonging and fulfilling the Lord's expectations changed.

There are also many like Jodi and her husband (page 72), whose struggles with infertility or **other challenges can make them feel like they don't belong**. Another example is provided by Onnastasia, who grew up feeling inadequate without a father in her home (page 76).

In digital-only articles, you can also read stories of how members who are welcoming can make all the difference for those returning to church; how **we're all needed** in the body of Christ; how to thrive when you are introverted or you struggle with social anxiety; and how you truly belong whatever your circumstances, including having a disability or being divorced.

The Church is full of people who don't feel like they belong. You might be one of them. **But we all can do our part to make every member feel welcome**. Because belonging isn't a matter of circumstance—it's a matter of who you truly are and who you are striving to become. As children of God, we all belong in Christ's Church.

Sincerely,
Brian S. King



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