

Rediscover Church • Week 2 • Belonging

- 1) What is the craziest / funniest / silliest organization or group you have belonged to?
- 2) Think about the difference between attending church and belonging to a church . . .
- How are the blessings different? - What is different about the responsibilities?

The church is a spiritual family. What does that mean?

To become part of a family, you need to be either born or adopted. And the Bible uses both concepts to describe what's called conversion, which is how you become part of the spiritual family of the church. Let's explore what the Bible teaches about spiritual birth and adoption.

- 3) What do adopted children receive from their adoptive parents? In what ways is conversion similar to adoption?
- 4) "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." - 1 Peter 2:10. How is conversion connected to Christian community? Is salvation merely an individual experience? Why or why not...?
- 5) All churches make the claim that "All are welcome." In what way is this statement true? In what way could it be misleading?
- 6) Should it be a simple matter to join a church? Or should it be not so simple in any way – and if so, how? What makes the difference between who can attend and who can be a member?
- 7) What is the danger of not belonging to a specific local congregation?
- 8) What does it look like to commit and belong to a church? How can we encourage people to do this?

Prayer Prompts

- Think of someone you know that is a Christian but is not well-connected or involved in a church. Pray for them this week; ask the Lord how you can help them get connected.
- Pray for the newer members of our church, that they find a specific group to belong to and a ministry team where they can serve with others.
- Ask the Lord to shift our mental paradigm from "go to church" to "be the church."