

Discussion Guide: December 7, 2025
Series: *Christ-mess: Finding Hope in a Dark World*
Message: *A Hope for True Belonging*
Bryan Bicket

Take Home Truth:

Jesus Makes True *Belonging* Possible with God and with the Family of God.

Focus Passages:

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. - Colossians 1:21 (NIV)

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. - Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. - Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” - Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. - Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. - Romans 12:10 (NASB)

Honor one another above yourselves. - Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. - Ephesians 4:2(NIV)

Serve one another humbly in love. - Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

Carry one another's burdens - Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Admonish [instruct/warn earnestly] one another. - Romans 15:14 (NASB)

Encourage one another. - 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NIV)

Build one another up - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Discussion Questions

1. No matter how great our families are, we all have a little family dysfunction this time of year.
 - If your family members were to answer the question, “How does _[INSERT ONLY YOUR NAME HERE]_ contribute to our family dysfunction?” What do you think they would say about you, and why?
 - Why is it helpful to recognize that we all bring our own brokenness into our relationships?
2. We long to belong to the One who made us, but there is a problem! We have sinned, and that sin separates us from God. It keeps us from belonging to Him and causes our hearts to seek our deepest belonging in those things that can never truly satisfy.
 - What are some ways that you have sought to find your belonging in things or people that don't truly satisfy?
3. Colossians 1:21 and Ephesians 2:1-3 paint a seemingly hopeless picture of humanity. This is exactly why Jesus is our only true hope this Christmas.
 - **Reread Galatians 4:4-5, Matthew 1:20-21, and Ephesians 2:4-5.**
 - How do these verses show us how Jesus makes true belonging possible with God?
 - What amazes you about what Jesus did for us?
4. In the message, Bryan said, “Everyone is God’s creation, but not everyone is God’s child.”
 - What did he mean by this and why is understanding this distinction important for you and for your friends and family this Christmas?
5. Jesus makes true belonging possible with God and with the family of God.
 - If you have been adopted into the family of God, what three words would you use to describe your experience of what belonging with and to God’s family has been like? (Note: It’s ok to admit it hasn’t always been great!)
 - If you haven’t been adopted into God’s family as His child, what’s keeping you from doing so?
6. God loves His children and has given us instructions on how we are to belong with and to one another by giving us the “one-anothers” of scripture.
 - Share about a time when you were blessed by a Christian living out the “one anothers” of scripture for your benefit.
 - How might God be asking you to demonstrate “the one another’s” of Scripture to a brother or sister in Christ this Christmas?

Time of Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us so much that you would send Jesus into this world to live and die for us to pay the penalty for and forgive us of our sin all so that we could become your adopted sons and daughters. Help us treasure and enjoy the gift that is Jesus this Christmas. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so we can live out the “one-anothers” of Scripture as brothers and sisters in Christ this week.