

YOU BELONG. BE ROOTED IN CHRIST'S LOVE.

Ephesians 3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you didn't feel like you belonged? Describe the emotions you experienced and the effect that experience had on your life.
- What do you think it means to "be rooted and established in love" (Ephesians 3:17)?

Most of us can identify with the human desire to belong. And when long-standing cultural or societal standards change, it can be easy to question whether we actually belong or for how long. In Ephesians 3, the Apostle Paul touts the comforting truth that we are all "members together of one body" in Christ. He eagerly encourages his Gentile readers that they are indeed part of God's family and that God's promises are for them too. Together, in Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus, we can find assurance and affirmation to strengthen and buttress our faith during difficult times. Let us hear Paul's reminder in chapter 3 that God's original plan was for inclusion and belonging to God's family and be blessed by his prayer for the Holy Spirit to root us in Christ's love.

Listen: [*You Belong. Be Rooted in Christ's Love.*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What damage have you seen the sin of superiority do—in your personal life? in society?
- In segment 1, host Darrell Delaney discusses a few stories in scripture that demonstrate how the Israelites "missed the mystery," of God's intentions to include everyone in one humanity even though his intentions were present already in Genesis. Do you think the church today understands or misses the mystery? What evidence would you cite to support your opinion?
- The Apostle Paul talks about his special calling in Ephesians 3:8-9 and hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss his humility, noting that "in his own soul he thinks he is just being honest." Whether humble or honest, do you think Paul's past experience as a devout Pharisee with a dramatic conversion story uniquely qualified him to bring the gospel to the Gentiles? Why? What about your life experiences uniquely qualifies you to do kingdom work where you are?
- In segment 3, Darrell identifies three major difficulties that impact whole communities and even whole countries: pandemic, political tensions, and racial tensions. In what ways have you personally been affected by these issues? Are there other difficulties in your life? What are you doing to root yourself in the love of Christ as you endure these difficulties? What one thing might you add or change in an effort to strengthen or deepen your roots in the love of Christ?

Related Passages

- **Acts 15:1-35**
- **Genesis 12:1-3**
- **Isaiah 49:6**
- **Acts 2**
- **Revelation 7:9-17**
- **Galatians 3:23-29**
- **Philippians 3:1-14**

Conclusion

Reread the Apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19. Which particular line or phrase resonates with you right now—for yourself? For someone else? Why? Talk about that particular resonance with God in prayer, then close your time of prayer by praying Paul's whole prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19 for yourself or the person the Holy Spirit brought to your mind.

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