

# The Joy of Belonging

**Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:10**

Think about an organization, club, or other regular gathering you attend. What keeps you coming back? It's probably not hearing someone speak or doing a particular activity, though those are important reasons to attend. In most cases, your major reason to belong is the people and the relationships you have formed with them.

Acts 2:42 zeroes in on the power of that sense of belonging in the Early Church.

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

Later, verses 46 and 47 note that the people gathered daily in the temple courts, ate together in their homes, and spent time with one another praising God. It is no wonder that people came to Christ every day. They had found not only the joy of salvation but also the joy of belonging.

God's family, the Church, provides a place for relationship building that is both helpful and meaningful in our walk with Christ. In that safe and loving environment, our hearts are more open to receive God's truth and act on it every day.

Belonging is a powerful cure for loneliness. If you haven't found a church home, make an effort to do so and be blessed by the loving, caring community that's there. Then you can move forward in fulfilling God's purpose for you, which is to do the good works that He already has in mind for you to do.

**Why is it important for a Christian to be part of a church? How will their involvement help their own lives? How will it help the lives of others in the church?**

**How involved are you in a local church? What are some areas where you might become more involved and find opportunity to help or encourage others?**