

Ladies of Grace Blog BELONGING Connie Duran

February 2019 Week 4

We bloggers **belong** in relationship to all of the women at Grace who **belong** to Christ. *5a …”so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” Romans 12:5a, ESV*

We all want to belong. Belonging creates a sense of identity, a quest that consumes us all of our lives. “Who am I?”

*Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not* ***belong*** *to him.*

*Romans 8:8-9 ESV*

“I belong to Christ Jesus.”

Before I belonged to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I was never sure about where I belonged. My mother was married four times. The first husband was the father of my two older brothers, but he died when they were toddlers. The second husband was my father and that of my younger brother. The marriage was a thirteen-year disaster. Regrettably, the marriage with husband number three was short-lived along with marriage to number four husband who died of alcohol abuse. No regrets there. My older brothers were often reminded that they were ‘Haggetts’, a better breed than the ‘Fehling’s’, the name of my younger brother and I. They were the offspring of number one husband who was a wonderful man, but sadly died prematurely. We were offspring of number two husband, who was wretched and abusive. My name was nothing to be proud of. I actually asked my mother, “Who am I?” Who do I belong to?

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1Co 6:10:19 ESV*

Belonging to Christ is salvation, eternal life and “home.” There is a cost when you belong to Christ. *(Luke 14:28)* Salvation is free, but Sanctification is God making us more like Christ. We who belong to Him are members of those who:

…are to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God ([Rom. 12:1](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/Rom.%2012.1)).

…are instructed not to yield any part of our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness to sin ([Rom. 6:12–13](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/Rom.%206.12%E2%80%9313)).

…have bodies that are actually "members of Christ" ([1 Cor. 6:15](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/1%20Cor.%206.15))….our bodies are actually "temples" literally inhabited by the Holy Spirit ([1 Cor. 6:19](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/1%20Cor.%206.19)).

… are expected to "glorify God" in our bodies ([1 Cor. 6:20](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/1%20Cor.%206.20)).

… are to become students of our bodies, knowing how to control them in honor

([1 Thess. 4:4](https://biblia.com/bible/nlt/1%20Thess.%204.4)).

And… are persecuted for belonging to Christ Jesus…*”so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” Acts 9:2 ESV*

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* *John 14:6 ESV*

*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:234 ESV*