

One (Belonging)

1/18/2009

1. In the opening comments about belonging, Pastor Steve described a dichotomy most of us experience. On the one hand, we have an intrinsic desire to be discovered (to belong; to be part of the group). On the other hand, we have a desire to hide and avoid belonging. Does that make sense to you? Why do many people have both?
2. Pastor Steve then went on to suggest that being a part of a community can take us places and make us do things that we would not normally do (like root for the Michigan Wolverines when we are an Illini fan!). Is that a good thing?
3. In what way is getting involved with a church community different from getting involved with the Kiwanis, Lions, or Rotary clubs?
4. Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 15-16 and pick out words that are used to describe attributes of members of a healthy Christian community.
5. Now read Philippians 2:1-5 and compare the characteristics to those in Ephesians.
6. Finally, look at Colossians 3: 12-15 and compare the list of characteristics found there.
7. These three passages describe characteristics that are very familiar to us. Where else do we find a very similar list of characteristics?
8. What would a church be like if its members exhibited these characteristics?

9. Pastor Steve ended by describing four different levels of belonging to a church. What were they and what were some characteristics that distinguished each?

a)

b)

c)

d)

10. Is a typical church made up of members predominantly at one of these levels?

11. Where is your church on this scale, and where are you within that community of God? What can you do now to help you get closer to a deep relationship with God and your fellow believers?