

## For Example | Dave Solmes

Ephesians 5:1-2 | July 3, 2022

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Question: What does it mean for you to be child of God?

**When it comes to our relationship with God, we must determine to become more and more dependent as we age and mature, keeping our relationship full of trust, and completely surrendered during every changing season of our lives. In order to find long-term contentment and fulfillment growing up and toward our child-likeness, we will always need to keep the 2 questions that Ephesians 5 answers in front of us:**

1. Who Am I?
2. Whose Am I (Where do I belong?)

## #1: WHO AM I?

Question: What do you think that God thinks about you?

Question: What do we know? 2 things from Ephesians 5:1-2:

1. Contrary to much popular thought, all people are not children of God. But the Bible is clear that we become children of God when we are born into His family through a spiritual new birth.
2. The truth is, once we are born again into a new relationship with God, we are, as Paul says, "dearly loved children." God loves you as His own. It doesn't matter how many mistakes you've made in the past or what's in your bank account. Whether you've been a Christian for 3 hours, 3 weeks or 30 years, you are dearly loved by our Heavenly Father. Because of what Christ, and Christ alone has done, we are called into a covenant relationship with our Heavenly Father and nothing can separate us from God's love. NOTHING.

Questions:

- Why is hard to accept God's unconditional love?
- Why is difficult to unlearn "independence." We are raised by our parents to reach milestones and are celebrated for various rites of passage?

Perhaps it could summarized this way:

- The role of child is what we grow out of in our walk with our first families.
- However, the role of the child is what we grow toward, in our walk with our Heavenly Father.

Question: Who Am I? Dearly loved child.

## #2: WHOM DO I BELONG (WHERE DO I BELONG?)

Question: what are your thoughts about this statement?

*True belonging is not something that you negotiate externally, it is what you carry in your heart. True belonging is finding sacredness in being a part of something/in relationship.*

(Brene Brown)

Question: In what ways are feelings of loneliness, much like hunger and thirst?

It is important to note that - loneliness and being alone are very different things. Being alone or inhabiting solitude can be powerful and very healing, but the unmet need associated with loneliness over long periods of time is harmful.

Question: What are the long term harmful affects of loneliness?

As we grow more and dependent as children of God, we can find our contentment in our belonging because we will find the benefit from a number of things that are of our 3 most basic human needs:

**#1. Short- and Long-Term Security:** God is going to take care of us.

Question: What specific things do you need God to take care of for you.

**#2. Personal Significance + Serving:**

Question: How do we find significance in our relationship with God?

Question: How do we find a place to serve in our relationship with God?

**#3. Social Belonging:**

We are adopted into a new "redemptive" family. New relationships that are Divinely appointed - we need to pay attention to these relationships - God ordained. We are born of God and therefore His spirit dwells within us, increasing our capacity to maintain long-term relationships.

How do we stay on this path of belonging?

**By walking in the way of love.** It is on this path that it will be confirmed over and over again: "who we are - and where we belong." Our belonging will be defined and discovered along this path that God has for us. We are to walk on it on earth - and will walk this path right to Heaven, the place where we belong for all eternity.

Questions:

- How close do you feel to God these days?
- Do you feel lonely and do you question with whom you belong?