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Belonging to Him

**Belonging to Him
Through the Cross**

Belonging to Him Through the Cross



The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-24)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

The Rejected Messiah

“He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”

(Isaiah 53:2-6)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

The Rejected Messiah

“He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

(Isaiah 53:2-6)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Christ emptied himself of the joys of eternal belonging to be despised and rejected of men.

- **He was born amidst the sexual scandal of adultery and illegitimacy. (Luke 1:26-38)**
- **The first public witnesses to his birth were shepherds, among the lowest social outcasts in that culture. (Luke 2:8-20)**
- **As he grew up and entered into ministry, he was rejected by the people in his home town. (Luke 4:16-30)**

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

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- **He was doubted by his own parents and brothers. (Luke 2:41-50; John 7:1-9)**
- **He was accused of demon-possession and schizophrenia. (John 10:20)**
- **He was misunderstood by his own disciples. (Mark 9:30; 20:9)**
- **He was betrayed by Judas. (Matthew 26:45-50)**
- **He was denied & cursed by Peter. (Mark 14:66-72)**

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Christ emptied himself of the joys of eternal belonging to be despised and rejected of men.

- **He was finally abandoned by nearly all who loved him. (Matthew 26:56)**
- **He was condemned by a corrupt court of law. (Matthew 26:57-68)**
- **He suffered one of the most unjust and brutal executions in history. (John 18:33-19:37)**
- **He was then rejected by God himself, left utterly alone. (Matthew 27:46)**

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Jesus Embraced Our Aloneness

Jesus came to restore us to relationship with God by dying on the cross.

He opened the door for us to belong by experiencing utter aloneness from God.

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Jesus Embraced Our Aloneness

But leading up to his death on the cross, Jesus spent his whole life joining mankind in their aloneness:

- **He identified with the pain of aloneness.**

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Jesus Embraced Our Aloneness

But leading up to his death on the cross, Jesus spent his whole life joining mankind in their aloneness:

- **He then invited all who were alone to belong to him.**

“[In Christ] there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

(Galatians 3:27-29)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

The Spirit of the Cross

So while belonging to God absolutely *starts* with the cross, the spirit of the cross should never leave us. As in the life of Jesus, a spirit of sacrifice should infuse every part of our lives.

“Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” (Matthew 16:24-25)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Ways We Can Belong to Him through the Cross

1. We first must come to terms with the consequences of our aloneness (sin, autonomy)

*“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”...[Jesus] said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”
(Matthew 9:11-13)*

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Ways We Can Belong to Him through the Cross

2. We must surrender our aloneness (autonomy, sin)—our desire to live life on our own terms.

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:24-25)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Ways We Can Belong to Him through the Cross

3. We must remain humble, never forgetting the aloneness that brought us to him in the first place.

“Whoever lacks [faith, virtue, love, etc.] is nearsighted and blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.” (2 Peter 1:9)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Ways We Can Belong to Him through the Cross

4. We must join others in their aloneness, inviting them to belong.

“[The Lord] has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed...”

(Luke 4:18-19)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

Ways We Can Belong to Him through the Cross

4. We must join others in their aloneness, inviting them to belong.

“God makes a home for the lonely; he leads out the prisoners into prosperity.” (Psalm 68:6)

Belonging to Him Through the Cross

God's Fervent Desire for Us to Belong

“When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. The more they called them, the more they went from them; They kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to idols. Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in my arms...I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, and I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; and I bent down and fed them.” (Hosea 11:1-4)

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