



Belonging to Him (Part 2)

Belonging to Him...
Belonging to Others



Toshiyuki Kuroki



Shibazakura or “Lawn Cherry” Flower



Toshiyuki & Yasuko Kuroki

Series Premise:

Personal relationship is the deepest need of the human heart, and God meets that need when we belong to him.

But, of course, our lives also find meaning and are sustained through the richness of personal relationship with other human beings.

Series Premise:

Personal relationship is the deepest need of the human heart, and God meets that need when we belong to him.

So, thankfully, another benefit of belonging to him is how it affects the way we belong to others.

And belonging to others affects the way we belong to him.

An aerial photograph of a vast field of pink flowers, likely azaleas, in full bloom. A winding dirt path or road cuts through the field, starting from the top left and curving towards the top right. The flowers are densely packed, creating a sea of pink with some green foliage visible between them. The overall scene is bright and colorful.

**The Second Is
Like the First**

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

*This is the great and first commandment.”
(Matthew 22:36-40)*

The Second Is Like the First

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“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

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Belonging to Him...

- 1. You shall have no other Gods before me.**
- 2. You shall not make for yourselves an idol.**
- 3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD.**
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

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Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

Belonging to Others...

5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony.
10. You shall not covet.

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

The second is like the first...

A. We can't truly belong to God if we don't pursue godly relationship with other people.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

The second is like the first...

A. We can't truly belong to God if we don't pursue godly relationship with other people.

“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20)

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

The second is like the first...

A. We can't truly belong to God if we don't pursue godly relationship with other people.

*“Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him.”
(1John 4:7-9)*

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

The second is like the first...

B. We also can't have healthy, meaningful personal relationships without belonging to him.

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**Keisha
Thomas**

The Second Is Like the First

Belonging to Him...Belonging to Others

The second is like the first...

B. We also can't have healthy, meaningful personal relationships without belonging to him.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45)

The Second Is Like the First

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The second is like the first...

B. We also can't have healthy, meaningful personal relationships without belonging to him.

*“[We] were by nature children of wrath...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”
(Ephesians 2:3-5)*

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B. We also can't have healthy, meaningful personal relationships without belonging to him.

“Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

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B. We also can't have healthy, meaningful personal relationships without belonging to him.

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)*

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It is by the grace of God that we can belong to others the way God intends.

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

(1 John 4:10-11)

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

The Second Is Like the First

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I, like God, leave the “heavens” of my isolation and independence, humble myself and engage and encounter others at the place where they live?**

The Second Is Like the First

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I, like God, offer others mercy and forgiveness?**
- **Can I, like God, lay down my life for the sake of those around me?**
- **Can I, like God, weep with others when they experience weakness, pain, and suffering?**
- **Can I, like God, risk rejection from people or social circles in order to invite those in need to belong to him?**

The Second Is Like the First

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I personalize God's love? Can I love a person individually for who they are?**
- **Can I stay patient, committed to imperfect and wounded people? Can I love others back to life?**
- **Can I relate to others with both truth *and* love?**
- **Can I be true to others in my integrity and character?**

The Second Is Like the First

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I speak words that connect and transform? Words that have the power to speak life and not death?**
- **Can I live within God's boundaries and invite others to also enjoy the freedom of living under God's governance?**
- **Can I model for others a life that is "above and beyond"? A life marked by transformative grace and transcendent faith?**

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SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I live with others in such a way that they can tell I have spent time with Jesus?**
- **Can I live with others in such a way that they can tell I'm connected to and empowered by Jesus?**
- **Can I demonstrate to others a life that holds Jesus in such reverence and astonishment, that we have nothing else to fear?**

The Second Is Like the First

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Can I Truly Love Others with the Love of God?

- **Can I demonstrate to others a peace and confidence that comes from my new identity in Christ?**
- **Can I demonstrate to others Bible-reading, a prayer life, a life of worship that shouts to the world that it's possible to have vibrant, real-world intimacy with our Creator?**

The Second Is Like the First

Our Hunger for Love



“I can never forget the experience I had in visiting a home where they kept all these old parents of sons and daughters who had just put them into an institution and forgotten them.”

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Our Hunger for Love



“I saw that in that home these old people had everything—good food, comfortable place, television, everything, but everyone was looking toward the door. And I did not see a single one with a smile on their face.”

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Our Hunger for Love



“I turned to a Sister and asked: ‘Why do these people who have every comfort here, why are they all looking toward the door? Why are they not smiling?’”

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Our Hunger for Love



“And the Sister said: ‘This is the way it is nearly every day. They are expecting, they are hoping that a son or daughter will come to visit them. They are hurt because they are forgotten.’”

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Our Hunger for Love



“There is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our lives—the pain, the loneliness.

We must have the courage to recognize it.”

– Mother Teresa

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Inviting Others to Belong

“No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.” (1 John 4:7-14)



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