

WEEK TWO - Belonging

Scripture Passages:

Romans 14:7-9

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you from Dr. Van Dyk's reflections?
2. Why is belonging essential for our lives?
3. What does belonging mean to you as an essential element of a worshipFULL life?
 - a. How do we create intentional spaces for belonging?
 - b. What barriers to belonging exist in our church communities?

4. In the passage from Romans, how does Paul describe our sense of belonging?
 - a. How should our sense of belonging to God shape our understanding of belonging to one another?
5. In the passage from 1 Corinthians, how is the concept of belonging significant?
 - a. How are the different parts of the body to understand their sense of belonging?
 - b. How do they belong to one another despite their differences?
6. In the Heidelberg Catechism the first question is this, “What is our only comfort in life and in death?” The answer to the catechism is that “That I am not my own,¹ but **belong**—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ”. What do you think about this statement? How does this statement inform our understanding of belonging?
7. How does “belonging” shape your understanding of living a worshipFULL life?