

International Conversation Cafe

Bible Topic: Where Do I Belong? John 1

All of us need to belong. We start out belonging to our families and then to our school, church, synagogue, or mosque. From there we belong again to a sports team, or a club. As we become employed, we belong to a company. But unless we feel acceptance from people in these groups, we may feel that we really don't belong. It is at this point some of us become involved in risky behavior such as alcohol, drugs and sex to gain the acceptance we need to feel.

The writer of the book of John talks about being accepted into God's family, the most important family in the world.

John 1

¹⁰ The Word (*a description of Jesus Christ*) was in the world that was made through him. But the world did not recognize (*realize who he was*) him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own. But his own people (*Jewish race*) did not accept him.

¹² Some people did accept (*welcome*) him. They believed (*to rely or depend*) in his name. He (Jesus) gave them the right to become children of God. ¹³ To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

Discuss

1. *What kind of acceptance do children normally receive from their earthly parents? Can you think of an example of this?*
2. *What kind of acceptance do you think God's children receive from God?*
3. *How do you think acceptance by God changes your attitude about yourself and others?*
4. *Many Jews of Jesus' time did not recognize Jesus to be from God. How do we know this? V. 11*
5. *How does one become a child of God? V.12*
6. *Some believe that all people are God's children. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?*

When we follow Jesus, we find that others that follow Jesus become like a family to us. Jesus himself found that those who believed and followed him were closer to him than his own family. Paul instructs followers of Jesus to be accepting of each other. Here are words he wrote to the church at Rome.

Romans 15

⁵ Our God is a God who strengthens you and cheers you up. May he help you agree with each other as you follow Christ Jesus. ⁶ Then you can give glory to God with one heart and voice. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Christ has accepted you. So accept (welcome) one another in order to bring praise to God.

What are some things that keep us from accepting one another?

How can God help us to love one another? Can you give an example?

What is the result of accepting one another?

How have followers of Jesus failed to accept one another?

How have followers of Jesus succeeded to accept one another?

What would you like to remember from this lesson?