



# Identity, Community, Belonging

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

How do you identify yourself when saying “I am ...”? What words do you choose to fill in the blank?

Do you also have hobbies and interests that you do, but that do not define you? For example, the author says he likes to run but doesn’t call himself a runner.

Bearing in mind that we all belong to a faith community that we call our Christadelphian Ecclesia, or Christadelphian Church, or Christadelphian Family, do you naturally gravitate towards others within this group who share some of your other interests and hobbies? Do you create sub-groups around these interests and hobbies? If so, how do you prevent the clique phenomena from occurring?

The author states that “Our relationship with the world is not one of arm’s length! The destination of Christ’s message to us in John is not being ‘not of this world’ – that is the beginning! The destination is verse 18: As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. (John 17:18)”

Does this article cause you to pause and reflect on our traditional understanding of this passage? How does this make you feel? In what ways do you avoid being “of this world”? Is there something you have always wanted to do, but feared that this would be contrary to our long-held tradition? Examples: volunteer in a homeless shelter, take food to a refugee camp, volunteer on your children’s school board?

The author lists many passages where Jesus says “I am ....” What do you learn from his descriptors?

How has this article changed your views on how you are part of Christ’s body? Does this feel freeing? Does this feel like a higher standard of calling? In what ways can you embody being a shepherd, gate (not gate-keeper), vine, light, resurrection, life?

The author ends by acknowledging that he feels very connected to his Christadelphian community but recognizes that many of us may not. Having a sense of belonging is a delicate two-way street.

If you currently do not feel like you belong to your local Christadelphian ecclesia/church what sorts of things have you tried in order to overcome this? What do you need from your ecclesia?

If you currently have a strong sense of belonging, are you aware of others who may not be experiencing this right now? What sorts of things have you tried in order to reach out? What do you need from these individuals?

How do we respect the fact that some people who no longer attend our ecclesias are actually not “lost sheep”?