



RE: BIRTH – Part 1

BELONGING BEFORE BELIEF *AND IDENTIFICATION BEFORE INFLUENCE*

Luke 15:1-2

Belonging Is a Basic Human Need

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.

Luke 15:1-2

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Belonging Expresses Value and Worth

Luke 15:5 – Lost Sheep

⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

Luke 15:9 – Lost Coin

⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

Luke 15:20 – Lost Son

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Belonging Counteracts Disconnecting Shame

1 John 3:1

See **what great love the Father has lavished on us**, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 4:16-18

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ **There is no fear in love.** But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Belonging Requires Vulnerable Community

1 John 1:7-9

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Belonging Enables and Inspires Belief

1 John 4:19

¹⁹ We love because [God] first loved us.