HOW CHRISTIANS CAN FIND DELIGHT AND BELONGING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

WHEATON, Ill.—Christians know church is important, but sometimes it doesn’t seem worth the effort. An eclectic assortment of people with differing personalities and opinions can make for awkward and difficult interactions. At times, Christians may even ask, What’s so great about the church?

In her new book, A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church (Crossway, May 2020), Megan Hill encourages readers with rich theology and practical direction to help them delight in being part of a local church. “We’ll discover that the local church is much more than it first appears,” writes Hill. “We’ll consider how this knowledge equips us to pray for one another, to speak to one another, and to live alongside one another. And we’ll find that there is nothing to be compared with being a member of the body of Christ.”

In each chapter, A Place to Belong unfolds one of nine terms that Scripture itself uses to describe the church:

- Beloved
- Called
- Church
- Flock
- Body
- Saints
- Brothers and Sisters
- Gospel Partners
- Multitude

Hill writes, “Focusing on these terms will help us clarify what is essential to the value of the local church.” She adds that wherever the church gathers, no matter its size, “the same biblical truths should define it, and the same biblical truths will foster our delight in the fundamental loveliness of Christ’s gathered people. When we take seriously what God says about his church, it will shape our experience of belonging there.”

Study questions are included at the end of the book, allowing further discussion for small groups.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Megan Hill (BA, Grove City College) is the author of Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer in Our Homes, Communities, and Churches and Contentment: Seeing God’s Goodness. She also serves as an editor for the Gospel Coalition. A pastor’s wife and a pastor’s daughter, she lives in Massachusetts with her husband and four children, where they belong to West Springfield Covenant Community Church (PCA).

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