

All of us want to feel that we belong to Jehovah. But at times, we may wonder where we fit in. This article will help us to see that each one of us has a valuable place in the congregation.

**EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The place we have in Jehovah's congregation refers to the role we play in building up and strengthening the congregation. It is not determined by our racial, tribal, economic, social, cultural, or educational background.

(1 Corinthians 12:12) For just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although many, are one body, so too is the Christ.

#### Paragraph 2

(Romans 12:4-8) For just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, although many, are one body in union with Christ, but individually we are members belonging to one another. 6 Since, then, we have gifts that differ according to the undeserved kindness given to us, if it is of prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or if it is a ministry, let us be at this ministry; or the one who teaches, let him be at his teaching; 8 or the one who encourages, let him give encouragement; the one who distributes, let him do it liberally; the one who presides, let him do it diligently; the one who shows mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-27) For just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although many, are one body, so too is the Christ. 13 For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit. 14 For, indeed, the body is made up not of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body," that does

not make it no part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If it were all hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has arranged each of the body members just as he pleased. 19 If they were all the same member, where would the body be? 20 But now they are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," or again, the head cannot say to the feet, "I do not need you." 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary, 23 and the parts of the body that we think to be less honorable we surround with greater honor, so our unseemly parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 whereas our attractive parts do not need anything. Nevertheless, God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that had a lack, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but its members should have mutual concern for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all the other members suffer with it; or if a member is glorified, all the other members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and each of you individually is a member.

(Ephesians 4:16) From him all the body is harmoniously joined together and made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed. When each respective member functions properly, this contributes to the growth of the body as it builds itself up in love.

#### Paragraph 4

(Romans 12:4, 5) For just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, although many, are one body in union with Christ, but individually we are members belonging to one another.

Paragraph 5

(1 Thessalonians 5:12) Now we request you, brothers, to show respect for those who are working hard among you and presiding over you in the Lord and admonishing you;

(Hebrews 13:17) Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over you as those who will render an account, so that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you.

(Ephesians 4:8) For it says: "When he ascended on high he carried away captives; he gave gifts in men."

(1 Peter 5:2, 3) Shepherd the flock of God under your care, serving as overseers, not under compulsion, but willingly before God; not for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly; 3 not lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock.

Paragraph 6

**(1 Thessalonians 2:6-8) Nor have we been seeking glory from men, either from you or from others, though we could be an expensive burden as apostles of Christ. 7 On the contrary, we became gentle in your midst, as when a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 So having tender affection for you, we were determined to impart to you, not only the good news of God but also our very selves, because you became so beloved to us.**

Paragraph 7

(Mark 10:29, 30) Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, no one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news 30 who will

not get 100 times more now in this period of time—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the coming system of things, everlasting life.

Paragraph 8

(Romans 10:15) How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent out? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!"

(1 Corinthians 3:6-9) I planted, A·pol'los watered, but God kept making it grow, 7 so that neither is the one who plants anything nor is the one who waters, but God who makes it grow. 8 Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one, but each person will receive his own reward according to his own work. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field under cultivation, God's building.

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(1 Timothy 2:4) whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

(Matthew 24:14) And this good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Paragraph 9

(Luke 8:2, 3) as were certain women who had been cured of wicked spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Mag'da·lene, from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Jo·an'na the

wife of Chu'za, Herod's man in charge; Su-san'na; and many other women, who were ministering to them from their belongings.

(Acts 16:14, 15) And a woman named Lyd'i-a, a seller of purple from the city of Thy-a-ti'ra and a worshipper of God, was listening, and Jehovah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things Paul was saying. 15 Now when she and her household got baptized, she urged us: "If you have considered me to be faithful to Jehovah, come and stay at my house." And she just made us come.

(Romans 16:3) Give my greetings to Pris'ca and Aq'ui-la, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

(Romans 16:6) Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

(Philippians 4:3) Yes, I request you also, as a true fellow worker, to keep assisting these women who have striven side by side with me for the good news, along with Clement as well as the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

(Hebrews 11:11) By faith also Sarah received power to conceive offspring, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who made the promise.

(Hebrews 11:31) By faith Ra'hab the prostitute did not perish with those who acted disobediently, because she received the spies in a peaceable way.

(Hebrews 11:35) Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order that they might attain a better resurrection.

#### Paragraph 10

(Proverbs 16:31) Gray hair is a crown of beauty  
When it is found in the way of righteousness.

#### Paragraph 11

(1 John 5:19) We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.

(Psalm 8:2) Out of the mouth of children and infants you have established strength  
On account of your adversaries, To silence the enemy and the avenger.

#### Paragraph 13

(1 Corinthians 12:15, 16) If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body.

#### Paragraph 14

(Philippians 2:3) Do nothing out of contentiousness or out of egotism, but with humility consider others superior to you,

#### Paragraph 15

**(1 Corinthians 12:4-11) Now there are different gifts, but there is the same spirit; 5 and there are different ministries, and yet there is the same Lord; 6 and there are different activities, and yet it is the same God who performs them all in everyone. 7 But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each one for a beneficial purpose. 8 For to one is given speech of wisdom through the spirit, to another speech of knowledge according to the same spirit, 9 to another faith by the same spirit, to another gifts of healing by**

that one spirit, 10 to yet another operations of powerful works, to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired expressions, to another different tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. 11 But all these operations are performed by the very same spirit, distributing to each one respectively just as it wills.

Paragraph 16

(Galatians 6:4) But let each one examine his own actions, and then he will have cause for rejoicing in regard to himself alone, and not in comparison with the other person.

Paragraph 17

(Hebrews 13:2) Do not forget hospitality, for through it some unknowingly entertained angels.

(Hebrews 13:16) Moreover, do not forget to do good and to share what you have with others, for God is well-pleased with such sacrifices.

Paragraph 20

(Romans 12:6-8) Since, then, we have gifts that differ according to the undeserved kindness given to us, if it is of prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or if it is a ministry, let us be at this ministry; or the one who teaches, let him be at his teaching; 8 or the one who encourages, let him give encouragement; the one who distributes, let him do it liberally; the one who presides, let him do it diligently; the one who shows mercy, let him do it cheerfully.