

Which People Belong to God?

Jonathan Haslett

Unfolding

How can we know whether we belong to God or not?

Why does it matter?

God is the Creator of the Universe. He has the power to do anything, including granting eternal life. He controls everything that happens. Belonging to God means being on the inside track with God and His will. It's a good thing.

What does the Bible say about which people belong to God.

Who Does God Call, “My People”?

[Romans 9:24–26](#) “24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? 25 As indeed he says in Hosea, “**Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’**” 26 “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there **they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’**””

[Hosea 1:10](#) “10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where **it was said** to them, “**You are not my people,**” **it shall be said** to them, “**Children of the living God.**””

[Isaiah 49:3](#) “3 And he said to me, “**You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.**””

[Genesis 12:7](#) “7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your **offspring** I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.”

[Galatians 3:16](#) “16 Now the **promises were made to Abraham** and to his offspring. **It does not say**, “And to **offsprings**,” referring to many, but **referring to one**, “And to **your offspring**,” **who is Christ.**””

Paul points out that when the Messiah came Gentiles would be called “Children of the living God.” This prophecy is in Hosea. Imagine how that would have sounded to the Jewish people at this time. They would probably have felt like something they had always treasured was being taken away from them. But that isn’t exactly what is happening. Through Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the promise given to Abraham, in a very powerful way, the blessing given to Jesus Christ was passed on to those who believed in Him. This was not taken away from the Jewish people. It was available to them as well. What changed, was that Gentiles could receive blessings that had been promised to the descendants of Abraham.

Only a Remnant Will Be Saved

[Romans 9:27–29](#) “27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will be saved**, 28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” 29 And as Isaiah predicted, “**If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.**””

[Isaiah 10:22–23](#) “22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will return**. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. 23 For the Lord God of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.”

[Isaiah 1:9](#) “9 If the Lord of hosts had not left us a few survivors, **we should have been like Sodom**, and become like **Gomorrah.**””

[Hosea 1:10](#) “10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “**You are not my people,**” it shall be said to them, “**Children of the living God.**”

[Romans 9:6](#) “6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For **not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,**” 9{+

As Jesus was called “Son of God”, those who are in Christ will also be called God’s sons (see [Romans 8:3; 29, 32](#)).

Jesus is the “change agent” who transforms non-Israelites into Israelites, from aliens to “children of the living God.” Some who were born as descendants of Abraham do not belong to God – they are among those who are not part of the remnant, and they are not God’s chosen people. Paul says they do not belong to Israel ([Romans 9:6](#)). This was not something that changed with Jesus. There had been a remnant that didn’t return long before Jesus was born. What changed was that Gentiles could be part of the blessings promised to the descendants of Abraham.

Whoever believes

By Faith

[Romans 10:11-13](#) “11 For the Scripture says, “**Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.**” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””

[Isaiah 28:16](#) “16 therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘**Whoever believes will not be in haste.**’”

[Joel 2:32](#) “32 And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.”

By faith in the work of Jesus a person comes to belong to God ([John 6:29](#)). Those who believe in Jesus belong to God. It doesn’t matter whether they are Jew or Gentile. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**” Some who were born as descendants of Abraham won’t belong to God, because they have no faith in Jesus. However, both Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus, who obey His command to believe in Him, will be saved ([John 12:36](#), [Acts 16:36](#)).**

How Are Gentile Believers Changed?

One head

[Hosea 1:11](#) “11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they **shall appoint** for themselves **one head.** And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.”

[Romans 1:4](#) “4 and **was declared to be the Son of God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”

[Romans 8:29](#) “29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

[Ephesians 1:22–23](#) “22 And he put all things under his feet and **gave him as head over all things to the church**, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Under the headship of Jesus Christ those who believe in Him are conformed to His image. He is the Son of God. He is the head of Israel. He is also the head of the church. Those who are in Christ, then, are adopted as sons of God, as we will see next.

Christians are adopted sons

[Romans 8:15](#) “15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!””

[Romans 8:23](#) “23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.”

Those who believe in Jesus are transformed by Jesus into adopted sons of God. As head of the church and head of Israel Jesus Christ is the one who can change them in this way.

Christians are of Israel

[Galatians 3:16](#) “16 Now the **promises were made to Abraham** and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but **referring to one**, “And to **your offspring**,” who is Christ.”

[Galatians 3:26–29](#) “26 for **in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith**. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are **Abraham’s offspring**, heirs according to promise.”

[Galatians 6:16](#) “16 And as **for all who walk by this rule**, peace and mercy be upon them, and **upon the Israel of God**.”

Jesus fulfills the role of Israel, as the offspring of Abraham. By being one in Christ Christians are sons of God, and offspring of Abraham.

Who do you say that Jesus is? If you say He is your Lord and Savior, Son of God, and you believe it in your heart, then you are saved. God calls you one of His own people. You will have total victory through Jesus over all the sin that has been a part of your life. You will live free from sin and death for all of eternity.

But if you do not say that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then you have no part in God and God does not call you one of His people.

Ask yourself, do you believe in Jesus?