

Seeking Community - Finding Belonging in Chaotic Times

Question 4: What does belonging mean to you?

Survey Responses
to be known and accepted and loved
Subjectively, feeling part of; objectively, being perceived to be included in the membrane or
Feeling valued for who I am, that I'm accepted for my beliefs, attitudes, I can share stories and what makes me laugh and be accepted.
It is a feeling of being connected or in touch
a sense of acceptance and an opportunity to accept others
Being a part of something.
Belonging means being a member of a group or community. As a member of this group, you are valued for what you bring to the group.
sharing
a way to feel welcomed and accepted and engaged
You fit in
to be connected to
Belonging means feeling wanted and comfortable where you are.
being valued
being myself
Be part of
a sense of fulfillment or attachment to something
-being respected and valued and part of a group
inclusion
The obvious
a feeling of respect, appreciation and purpose within a group of people
being an active part of something
part of
Being an important part of a group.
no matter looks races size disability every one should belong
self and others feel you are a part of something
total acceptance of who you are, more than tolerance or welcome, a place/group where people want you to be a part of it and would miss you if you were not there
kinship, similar interests/beliefs , a desire to be a part of a group where you are welcome
Being part of, feeling included, knowing I matter.
connected, comfortable, safe
have an attachment to
Belonging means feeling wanted and useful in your community
safety, away from hurtful/mean beings
contributing to the benefit of all, acknowledgment of membership
sense of home, friends
Being fully part of a group
Recognition that I matter and can contribute
being connected, feeling part, strong inclusive friendships for everyone
connected
that I know where my place is and that others know I am at home in it
knowing that you have an accepted place, that you are regarded with kindness and welcomed
Seeing yourself as part of something
belonging means that I have a very important role in community
Acceptance
belonging means associations with others that are supportive, caring and clear.
being cared about
a sense of feeling connected to each other, of support
Having a sense of familiarity and trust, where one can be themselves and allow others to do the
A sense of place and connection to others

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Feeling part of something.
interconnectedness
comfort
identifying myself within a particular group or context
A feeling of stability and permanence that supports a well-grounded experience
Feeling like you are a part of some kind of collective
A sense of identity; to know and be known by like minded people
being a part of; being able to rely on in times of need; having the responsibility to participate as one part of a whole
feeling you are part of something
feeling and being part of something, or some place, or some group
- it means a sense of identity with others, with place, or with communities of people - along with a welcome and inclusive attitude toward me and respect from them
feeling part of something like a family
feeling a part of the community connecting with your neighbours
A sense of being accepted, a place where one feels comfortable and at home
feeling at peace, security, trust
A feeling of comfort.
being a part of, feeling comfortable, safe and secure,
A sense of "home" It is heart-speak for the warm feelings I have when I feel rooted in place and in
feeling a sense of attachment and worthiness by association
To belong to a group
a space in time filled with traditions and people I can trust to invest new traditions that keeps me safe in my exploration
being loved, having a "home", a safe haven, a sense of peace and contentment
allowed to live in the community with my own beliefs being respected, while respecting others.
being a part of
feeling connected, valued, important. Having something to contribute. seeing myself in others
Acceptance
Acceptance. Being comfortable as I am within a group.
can be formal or informal, attachment
security
Belonging means one is a part of some group or organization. That belonging can range from active participation to passive or belonging in name only.
being part of something larger than oneself
happiness
fitting in, being needed and fulfilling ones needs,
being cared about and caring for others
being beneficially & mutually involved
something in common, someone who cares for you & someone/thing to care for
this is getting reductive
a feeling that is obtained by being in a group
Affiliation, co-ownership
it means that there is a connection that implies ownership and the attendant sense of responsibility, care that accompanies ownership
feel safe, welcome
To feel valued, loved, integrated in something
Sense of oneself as being within/part of a bigger whole/entity. Seems to imply that you have the right to be part of this entity.
feeling like a meaningful, accepted, contributor
A feeling of, or a desire to "fit" or "fit in"
Part of something I identify with

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feeling a part of something
being where you are meant to be/welcomed with open arms
feeling loved and valued
having a sense of attachment to a place, culture, belief, value
Finding a place where you feel at home
A feeling that there is a place for you.
people recognize me
a feeling of safety and familiarity
acceptance; having a role
That I am not alone but part of a group of somehow connected people
Important part of who I am and where I come from
Feeling welcomed in society, a group, work etc.....feeling a "part of"
rightness, acceptance, comfort, place, home, sharing
can just be myself, without judgment, safe place
very geographically focused for me. Where I can walk any where in my neighbourhood/community and have some sort of pleasant memory of the particular spot I am standing at. A friends house, a sports field, a school I want to etc.
Feeling part of a group
having others recognize my strengths and value them
feeling of connectedness and being valued/respected
A mutually socially constructed relationship
being accepted, being included, being part of things, being engaged
- everything - love - support - connection to others and the world
a feeling of being an essential part of
s sense of reciprocal need and appreciation for one another
acceptance (not necessarily agreement), respect of ideas, shared interests/values, inclusion, compassion, shared passion
Belonging has several meanings but at the core, for me, is ownership and connectedness. There is a sense of responsibility that flows out of belonging to a group.
that I am part of something which I can help make decisions in, that I am part of something that others are glad to have me there for who I am
being a member of
Being part of; being understood on shared terms; having a commitment with end.
to be a part of something
Being humane and creative within and with others.
Feeling accepted, like my opinion / ideas matter.
being loved; having a place to go, to call home or family; being accepted
sense of place
Recognition.
fitting in, being comfortable
To be accepted.
I can be myself who I am matters
being part of something, caring for people and people caring for you, membership, responsibility/opportunity, feeling grounded and secure
feels at home
Embraced as a whole person without the need to obfuscate true values and beliefs
I'm going to be repeating myself - boring for you -
sharing, understanding,
the feelings we get from being one of the group: acceptance, safety, comfort, cared for
family, friends, feeling and attachment to a group of people or a team
attached to
Being a part - included in things

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I feel a real part of something - group, family, neighbourhood etc
I fit in
Belonging means being accepted for my common humanity or fundamental human dignity.
belonging is feeling like you are at home and are an essential part of the environment
feeling like you fit in somewhere
Belonging means feeling that you are appreciated and welcome
Feeling a part of something outside oneself
feeling like you share common interests with others
-fitting in somewhere, having connections to someone or something
Where I feel at home, able to be myself, and where people know and accept me
Part of/ acknowledged/ valued
Being comfortable and accepted
being part of, feel welcomed
I have a safe place or group of people through which I share life and receive a part of my identity.
To be aware of and part of a group
Knowing that you have place where you are known
a holistic concept where one is truly engaged in the process of living in a community
finding a group of people that you identify with and want to be involved with
a part of, member of, accepted by
feeling accepted for who I am
To be included in activities, playing cards, going to meetings, activities and part of decision making for the group
Comfort, acceptance, supportive
being a part of, inclusion
that there are people around me who unconditionally support me and will help me through the
feeling wanted and needed
to feel an emotional connection to someone or something
A feeling of support and caring
- feeling good about oneself in the presence of others. - feeling needed by others - feeling like one fits within their environment (social, physical, or other, etc).
personal sense of being part of a group, as part of self of identity
being liked
comfortable feeling
feeling important, wanted, cared for, sense of feeling complete
Relationships and participating in activities
- having a sense of inclusion, being comfortable where you are
security
belonging is feeling at home and welcome somewhere, feeling like you are meant to be a part of
acceptance, comfort,
being included
mutually accepted and supported
sense of connectedness
security, safety, satisfaction
Being included
feeling right in a place (again, place could be conceptual) and feeling welcomed
one of many
Being included. Being cared for.
a feeling of oneness and closeness with a group of people
being a part of something
An emotional connection to a group or individual.
part of, accepted for strengths and gifts and included

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Belonging means being a member, being recognized and identified as part of this community. Conversely, when a person speaks about themselves, they will identify this community as part of who they are, and where they spend their time and interest. On the opposite end, some people do not belong. Belonging means that you may have been invited, so there is a possibility of
acceptance, openness, participation
to be apart of something feeling complete
part of, connected
Belonging is that totally comfortable level
Having a place. Recognition.
To be a part of something that we desire to be a part of. To have rights that cannot be dissolved.
a word that describes a certain relationship between assets and an individual or a perception of involvement that an individual has within a network of relationships
being a part of
Feeling safe and comfortable.
part of
being part of something great, moving collectively forward
sense of place and caring
that people know me and value my interactions with them
To belong means to be part of someone else's life. This can be my wife, my church, my community league, my country, the land in the geographic area where I live.
a feeling
to fit in, a sense of attachment
where you feel comfortable and have trust with those around you
I'm part of something bigger
Being connected, acceptance, give and take
being able to identify and be part of a group or community
inclusion,
A sense or feeling of common causes with others.
Belonging is a way to counter the loneliness we must all grapple with to some extent all the time, that comes from being an individual in a rapidly changing (out-of-control?) world. Connection, connectedness, understanding, affection -- even love.
feeling at home, like I have a place
Being wanted, having someone to ask for help, being valued
belonging means feeling safe to be who you are without fear of being shunned by others, comfort
feeling attached to a place or a group of people, sharing a sense of common purpose
being part of something that is bigger than myself
Connection to a place/group
having friends I can talk to
a part of
sense of purpose, part of something bigger
I feel no isolation
feeling welcomed and included
ownership
being at home an assurance that one is accepted -the "longing" bit in "belonging" sometimes puzzles me... is it a longing for the ability to just "be"? -oops, 30 seconds is up...
having a comfortable sense of "place", not being isolated or set apart
A sense that I have been found
A sentimental attachment or strong sense of being needed or needing to be somewhere/with
A safe place one looks forward to going to with people you care about.
feeling part of something, feeling useful, loved, cared for. Feeling able to contribute, feeling worthwhile, appreciated
identify with, have sense of purpose and being known by others and identified by self

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safety, love/affection/friendship, creative stimulation, shelter, and being able to contribute to the life around me contribute to my own sense of self, identity etc
attachments
feeling like I am part of something
being a part of
something that is shared while acknowledging difference; comfort, shelter, bubble of like-minds, acceptance, challenge, honesty, commitment, trust, respect
being a part of something greater
connection, relationship, associated
feeling part of, having shared duties and responsibilities
"Belonging," to me, means a sense of fitting in, of being part of something greater than myself. It might refer to belonging to a group, or to a geographical community, or even to my own sense of self and my vision of who I want to be.
Knowing, being known and feeling connected
Being part of an entity. (a family, a group, a nation).
being art of something that is bigger than me
being a valued part of something
A place to relax
being part of
As Robert Frost put it about home "when you have to go there they have to take you in"
connection / acceptance and positive regard for self-expression, and shared values
People helping people help themselves - I come home and know the children on my street - belonging to me means I have invested time and energy in getting to know the people who
Feeling a valued part of the whole
being accepted and a part of something important to me
feeling part of something
Attachment
To belong means that I have personal vested interest and am included.
Feel a part of something
a sense of ownership, control (in cooperation) and primarily a sense of being known and respected
being a part of something
a host of feelings and experiences that account for being part of or excluded from
being a part of
Being myself in an environment where it is acceptable to be oneself, and to live comfortably that
connected to something or someone
Part of
Part of a whole
acceptance
sense of place among people
inclusive, engaged part of a system
unconditional acceptance, safety, solidarity
Feeling a part of something where I am welcome and that I have an interest in. Somewhere that I feel comfortable and have something in common with others
that I am accepted unconditionally
Belonging to me means that feeling that we are together, we are integrated and we value each
beginning accepted for who I am
comfort and acceptance
Having a sense of connectedness to those with whom I belong.
familial; trust; safety
to be part of , membership, invested
feeling invested, being an important part of a great whole
Being part of - not being an other, being in

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being part of the world
Being part of something- having a sense of identity with a group
feeling a part of something
to be included
acceptance
association welcome and contribution
shared identity
being accepted, being real, who you are without fear of exclusion
feeling part of a community or group; having a position that receives and gives benefit
it is a central aspect of citizenship, along with access, rights and responsibilities
Part of something Inclusion Acceptance
included, open to take part of
feeling connected
That I have a place somewhere - my worth is important
identity... being understood
A sense that you are a part of something that is important to you.
identification of others in relation to oneself.
To be known and accepted.
Belonging means that I fit and feel right
be part of a group, a family
- a place of comfort
To feel connected to a set values, beliefs, interests / to have and provide meaning
assimilation sameness a connection between people or things based on similarities
a sense of togetherness
being a part of something that "fits" who I am and my interests and nurtures both; being accepted and respected for my particular interests and characteristics
I am called by name
when you belong you have a feeling of being needed by others feel useful secure comfortable
being a part of
being a part of....
Home.
"Belonging" means to attain and maintain a sense of purposeful pride in association with another or group of individuals. It can be associated with comfort and inter-connectedness.
being part of
being a part of - ownership - etc
feeling like a part of something
inclusion - being accepted by people, into places
being a part of a group
community
I know where I want to be seen as a legitimate part of the group. When people smile when I arrive and ask me something beyond "how are ya" I have a basis to belong.
- acceptance by decision, or default (family etc)
feeling a sense of being understood and accepted
belonging means that I have a place, that I have a role and can make a contribution or accept help when I need it.
A feeling of being appreciated and loved that translates into reality.
Being part of/ inclusion
Included
I feel connected to someone or something.
membership, ownership
feeling at home feeling valued, respected
a sense of acceptance; a place where you can be yourself; where others can relate to you and you

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safety--emotional, physical; can be myself; not judged;
feeling a part of something
to be a part of, to feel valued
the sense of being connected to someone or something
being a part of
- being a recognized member - a sense of family or being in the right place - comfortable
being part of something larger than self
I feel connected
a sense of connectedness having found the links; e.g. common values, common friends, intellectual stimulation, enjoying the same activities
Feeling of security, of being needed,
participating in community
being a part of something
being part of something
It's not a word I think about much, so as I reflect quickly I realize that "belonging" is something I do naturally, reflexively. If I don't belong I don't hang around long.
a sense of caring for each other
being part of being given equal consideration
feeling welcomed, part of a larger group / system, shared interests or values
know my place within a group
Feeling a part of something - a connection
feeling like I have a place where I am known and am comfortable being there
something I have ownership of
being a part of something or someone else
I can be who I am
having others know and accept me
feeling happy where I live
Belonging means that I either self-associate or are associated by others with a particular group defined by a common place, set of values or beliefs, or other common identified
a sense of being welcome and appreciated
sharing ideals
feeling that I am accepted, that I am part of something
I am not alone
Belonging means that you have a sense of how you can use your talents to increase community.
you are a part of something greater than yourself
Being accepted and supported (it can be physical, emotional and/or spiritual)
Being safe and supported in a good spot. Acceptance of me and for me to accept others.
the end of longing
Belonging is a sense of alignment to others; a resource and an affinity.
Being part of a larger group/team. Inclusive
being a party to, part of, reading from the same page
Being known, included
having a network or other individual who shows acceptance to you. Relationships that are based on connection and similarities.
Belonging describes some level of attachment
being a part of something day to day
Being a part of something
Being a valued member of a group of 2 or more people
acceptance and being valued and needed
community - friendships
- being part of - fitting in
people knowing and respecting you

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Being part of something greater than me
being accepted
belonging means the experience of connectedness
Security, warmth, potential.
One of a group
part of something, security, enhancement of life, not alone, included
I have an opportunity to
Being part of or associated with a group
feeling connected
being a part of something
having people that accept you and want to be associated with you
be part
Feeling welcomed and valued by those around me.
Feeling valued and respected, where people are honest with one another, and nourish balance in a sense of being at home, accepted, accepting, loving / being loved
being part of something
Being a part of something
part of something
a sense of fitting in and togetherness
There by choice and being respected.
ownership
sharing/contributing to a cause with other like minded individuals, working towards a common
You are accepted for who you are and you can contribute as you can.
- part of a group
being part of
I have a connection with those around me, we touch each other in ways that are mutually
To be part of a group.
having friends, being aware of issues, participating in the amenities offered
richness of interaction as an integral part of a group
sense of pride in ownership
give and take. participation. respect and trust given both ways.
to be a part of something, being accepted
being a part of something beyond myself
Belong means an intangible attachment to a group or region of people.
Again, the traditional sense of membership
a connection that feels right and know I am accepted for who I am - no pretenses - my differences
similar interests within a group
acceptance and inclusion
belonging means participation, acceptance, familiarity, trust
part of, included, meaning
feeling involved and important
Identity.
sense of connection / linkages between neighbours and community members
feeling connected to others common interests caring
Feeling a sense that you are a valid member of something.
the feeling of fitting in, a place where someone feels comfortable
being part of participating in
fitting in
Be part of a the whole
A part of, membership, security
sense of connectedness
coming "home" to a place or people that know me

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Being part of, having links with, being responsible of...
being a part of something - both in the active sense (contributing) as well as in the passive sense (benefitting from)
Allowed entry with respect
Part of something
able to contribute in meaningful ways and to offer and receive support from
part of something
I have the right to be here; being here is right for me; I am accepted and valued as a member
Belonging is sharing a common asset
These questions all provoke much the same answer in me.
Security, purpose, reason, meaning, hope
Belonging means to be part of, to be dedicated to giving to and thus receiving from in a mutual
feeling part of something; connected; having something in common
Knowing enough to access support, and be part of community events (even if it is just being the
clean-up brigade at the community centre Halloween party.)
Being accepted, making a contribution and being viewed as an intrinsic part of the group
interrelationships that make us part of a collective
Having place.
important to my identity and sense of self, fulfillment, having the ability to contribute
Being part of something
being a part of something, having a place in context of others
A feeling of contributing to a group and that the contribution is recognized.
Respect; non-interference by others (not intruding in my life); contributing to the betterment of
my community and country
Not being alone, knowing that there are those that care about you
Being part of something greater than oneself
Experiencing an emotional attachment.
being connected, part of
Means being a part of
being an essential part of something bigger
feeling welcomed and having value
participation in, sharing with, feeling and experiencing the support of others
Fitting in, as who I am, not what I feel I must be.
feeling connected
security, identity, home
fitting in feeling at ease
friendship
To be a part of
-feeling like you can identify with others in your community -feeling as though you are like-
minded with others

