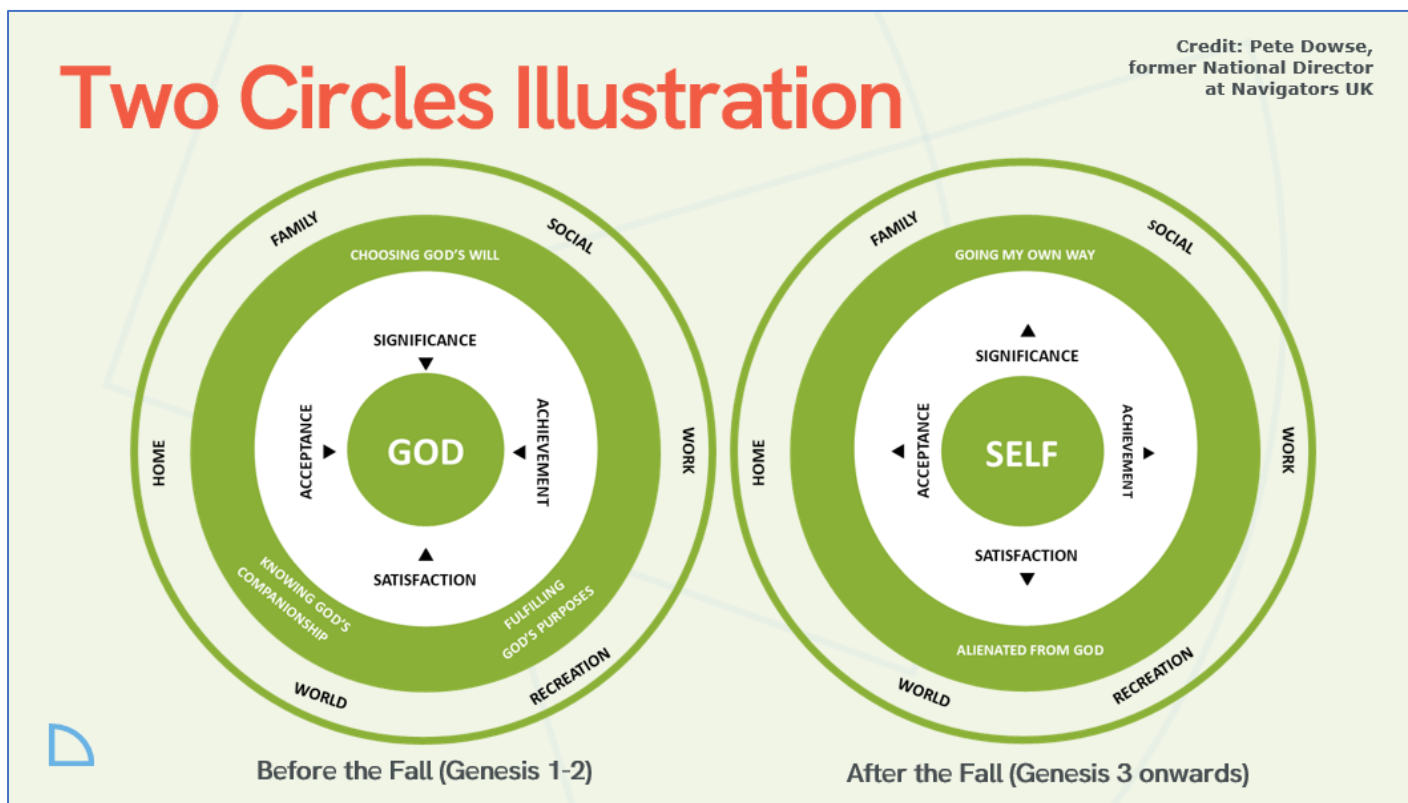


**AIMS:** Acceptance is a huge issue in our world especially for those who've experienced alienation, discrimination or some kind of relational breakdown in our families. (1) We will consider 3 case studies to help us consider the reality we face in finding true belonging. (2) We will see that true acceptance is only found in Christ. (3) Practically we will think about how relationship with God transforms our sense of belonging as we begin to see God as our good Father and ourselves as His sons & daughters.



### Introduction: Defining our Terms

**Discussion:** In what ways do we, our communities and/or society accept or reject one another? What basis is applied for such acceptance or rejection (E.g., Gender, Sexuality, Culture/Race or Status)?

#### 1. Am I Accepted... When I feel like I don't belong? (Song by Ed Sheeran)

**Discussion:** Spend some time re-reading the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's song and think about the following questions: What is the central message of the song? What does the song have to say about acceptance/belonging?

#1 Accepted by Christ (John 1:12-13):

#2 Accepting one another (Romans 14:1-4a):

## 2. Am I Accepted... Even if I am different? (Clip from Hidden Figures movie)

*Discussion: What do you like/dislike about the clip? What does the clip have to say about acceptance/belonging?*

#1 Friend of Sinners (Matthew 11:19):

*Discussion: What was culturally surprising about Jesus' encounters (e.g., Mark 1:40-45, John 8:1-11, Luke 19:1-10, Mark 2:1-12, John 4:1-26, Luke 7:36-50)? In what ways does show acceptance to the person?*

#4 One in Christ (Galatians 3:26-29):

## 3. Am I Accepted... Even when I feel so broken? (Clip from the Crown)

*Discussion: What implications result from the experience of broken homes or broken relationships? What impact would you say that these things could have on our sense of acceptance and belonging?*

#1 Children of God (1 John 3:1-3):

#2 Adopted as Sons (Galatians 4:1-6):

## Conclusion: The Basis of Acceptance

Accepting Acceptance

### Book Recommendations:

Brendan Manning, *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate*, © 2015 NavPress

John Ortberg, *The Me I want to be, Becoming the best version of you*, © 2014 Zondervan

Graham Beynon, *Mirror, mirror: Discover Your True Identity in Christ*, © 2008 IVP

# Beautiful People, Ed Sheeran, June 2019 (listened to 1,337,181,933 times on Spotify)

Beautiful People lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Universal Music Publishing Group

We are, we are, we are

L.A. on a Saturday night in the summer  
Sundown and they all come out  
Lamborghinis and their rented Hummers  
The party's on, so they're headin' downtown  
(Round here) everybody's lookin' for a come up  
And they wanna know what you're about  
Me in the middle with the one I love and  
We're just tryna figure everything out

We don't fit in well  
'Cause we are just ourselves  
I could use some help  
Gettin' out of this conversation, yeah  
You look stunning, dear  
So don't ask that question here  
This is my only fear, that we become

Beautiful people  
Drop top, designer clothes  
Front row at fashion shows  
"What d'you do?" And, "Who d'you know?"  
Inside the world of beautiful people  
Champagne and rolled-up notes  
Prenups and broken homes  
Surrounded, but still alone  
Let's leave the party

That's not who we are  
(We are, we are, we are)  
We are not beautiful  
Yeah, that's not who we are  
(We are, we are, we are)  
We are not beautiful

L.A. mm

Drove for hours last night and we made it nowhere  
(nowhere, nowhere)  
I see stars in your eyes when we're halfway there (all  
night)  
I'm not fazed by all them lights and flashin' cameras  
(uh)  
'Cause with my arms around you, there's no need to  
care

We don't fit in well  
We are just ourselves  
I could use some help  
Gettin' out of this conversation, yeah  
You look stunning, dear  
So don't ask that question here  
This is my only fear, that we become

Beautiful people  
Drop top, designer clothes  
Front row at fashion shows  
"What d'you do?" And "Who d'you know?"  
Inside the world of beautiful people  
Champagne and rolled-up notes  
Prenups and broken homes  
Surrounded, but still alone  
Let's leave the party

That's not who we are  
(We are, we are, we are)  
We are not beautiful, yeah  
Yeah, that's not who we are  
(We are, we are, we are)  
We are not beautiful  
  
We are, we are, we are  
We are not beautiful