

THE LOCAL CHURCH
Fellowship: One Another

I. Fellowship with other believers is supposed to be active in the life of every believer-Ac2:37-Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward (wicked) generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued steadfastly (constantly diligent, attend diligently) in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship (partnership, social interaction, distribution), and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common (GW**-All the believers kept meeting together and they shared everything with each other); 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

A. Fellowship, friendship, relationships, social interaction should be present in the local church

1. This fellowship is vital both for the local church and for the believer as a individual
2. Through these relationships you're supposed to minister and be ministered to
3. Fellowship includes social interaction-Fellowship is partnership (participation), social interaction, distribution; It also means sharing (Share in this work, share our resources, share socially)-[Fellowship-(G2842)-Partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or social intercourse, confer money: Communicate, communion, distribution, fellowship; Thayer-Fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse; The share which one has in anything, participation; Intercourse, fellowship, intimacy; A contribution; Comes from (G2844) which is a sharer, that is, associate: - companion, fellowship, partaker, partner; Thayer-A partner, associate, comrade, companion; A partner, sharer, in anything]

B. They weren't just coming to church and hearing the Word and leaving

1. After salvation and baptism they continued steadfastly in: 1.Apostles teaching 2.Fellowship 3.Breaking bread 4.Prayer
 - a. After the events, begins the process-Salvation and baptism are events these four things are the process
2. 42,44,46-They were together all the time, not just at church-Fellowshipped together, in the temple together, broke bread in each other's homes-Ac2:42-CEV-They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together; NIRV- They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Ac2:44-VO-There was an intense sense of togetherness among all who believed
3. These 5 things came because of their commitment to those 4 things: 1) The fear of the Lord came on them all 2) Signs and wonders 3) Great unity 4) Caring for each other 5) The Lord added to the church daily

II. Social interaction with other believers is supposed to be found in the life of every believer-According to the Word we are supposed to be around each other, interacting with each other

- A. Receive one another-Be friends-Rm15:7-Receive (take into friendship) you one another as Christ also receives us to the glory of God
- B. Use hospitality-1Pt4:9-KJ-Use hospitality (fond of guests, generous to guests) one to another; CSB-Welcome one another into your homes
- C. Serve one another-Gal5:13-By love serve one another
- D. Confess your faults and pray-Js5:16-Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that you may be healed
- E. Encourage one another-1Th5:11-Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify (embolden, give strength, spirit or courage; cheer the mind in distress, alleviate grief, give refreshment) one another even as also you do
- F. Bear one another's burdens-Gal6:2-Bear ye one another's burdens (load, heaviness, trouble), and so fulfill the law of Christ
- G. Care on for another-1Cor12:25-That the members should have the same care one for another
- H. Teach and admonish one another-Col3:16-Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord
- I. They can't see us loving each other if we're not together-Jn13:35-By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another

III. Fellowship builds relationship and relationship makes way for ministry-As we spend time together our relationship grows and our relationship grows there is openness for ministry

- A. Your presence and words can really minister to someone else-Pr15:23-There is nothing better than the right word at the right time; Pr25:11-CEV-The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver
- B. There is supposed to be a lot of saint to saint ministry in the body-The problem is people won't take time to fellowship and so there is no relationship and without relationship there's no opening for ministry; Many because of their own laziness have no relationships inside the church to and so then they try to get all their ministry from the pastor, but the reality is the saints are supposed to be carrying some of the load of ministering to each other
1. Peter's commission after He was converted-Not save the lost-Lk22:32-When you are converted, strengthen they brethren
 2. There needs to more focus on ministry to one another-Gal6:10-As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith

IV. Understand that being unsociable is the flesh, not just a personality trait

- A. Walking in the spirit is walking in agreement with the Word-Walking in the flesh is walking in opposition to the Word-Jn6:63-It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life
- B. Interacting with believers, talking, sharing, fellowshipping this is the Word and therefore it's walking in the Spirit-Being unsociable, isolated, distant this is the flesh
1. Where are the scriptures that tell you to not gather together and interact socially, but isolate and be alone?
- C. Put the flesh under and give it not room-Ga5:24-They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh; Rm13:14-Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof
1. Fellowship pleases to the Lord-When children laugh and play together it's pleasing to their parents; Rm8:8-They that are in the flesh cannot please God
- D. If The Word of God is final authority in your life then fellowship is not optional-You either live by the Word or don't
1. Don't play and pretend, repent and change-If your heart is pricked repent and change, don't squirm and make excuse
 2. The enemy doesn't want you fellowshipping with other believers-He knows the power of this

V. Keys to good fellowship

- A. We have to commit ourselves to gathering for fellowship and be diligent about it-Acts2:42-VO-Committed themselves to learning what the apostles taught them, gathering for fellowship, breaking bread, and praying
- B. Communicate-Fellowship (social interaction, sharing) is sharing; When you're interacting with other believers talk and share and let them talk and share
- C. Give people grace-The more you are around people there more there is to see, the more there can be to judge-Js4:11-Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law: but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge
- D. Be kind and friendly-Smile, be nice-Ep4:32-Be ye kind (gracious, mild, pleasant, not harsh, hard, sharp, bitter) one to another
- E. Be led and don't be weird-Jn8:26-I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him...as my Father has taught me, I speak these things; Js1:19-Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak