

Fellowship – ‘Koinonia’

Hebrews 10:25. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:42-47. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43: Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44: All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45: Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46: Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47: praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

What does Fellowship look like?

1. What is 'relationship' and 'fellowship'?

a) Relationship

Relationship is being connected by blood (family), marriage or adoption.

As Christians we are 'related' to each other by 'birth' and 'adoption' - into God's family!

b) Fellowship

Noun:-Koinonia; Verb:-Koinoneo, Fellowship is

communion, 'brotherhood', communication, contribution, partnership, partaking, sharing, etc

The 'New Birth' brings us into 'relationship' with God so that we can then enjoy 'fellowship' (intimacy & communion) with God the Father and with God's people!

Gen. 3:8-10. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

2. What is fellowship with God?

a) Living in the light and living in the truth!

As Christians we are in 'relationship' with each other by being in God's family and in 'fellowship' by staying in a healthy 'communion' with each other!

1 John. 1:3. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

b) Our fellowship is with God and with each believer.

How do we stay in fellowship with God and believers?

1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

We must learn to walk in the light with integrity, transparency, honesty, humility, forgiveness, etc

2. Important principles of fellowship

a) Corporate worship & ministry

Acts 2:42. They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

A strong commitment to corporate worship, prayer, teaching and communion, etc. Together in the temple (larger gathering) and in homes (smaller gathering)

b) Sharing

Acts 2:44-45. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

They generously shared practical support, responsibilities and help.

c) Contributing

2 Cor. 8:4. ...implored us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

They contributed and invested spiritually, emotionally and practically.

d) Partnering

Phil. 1:3-5. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

They partnered by supporting and working with each other.

e) Some fellowship warnings!

2 Cor. 6:14. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

This is a very serious warning about the danger of God's people having fellowship with ungodly people.

4. What kind of fellowship do we have?

We are to avoid 'fellowship' with anything that will injure our walk with God!

Acts 2:42.

Their devotion to fellowship involved corporate worship, teaching and communion with faith building people.

They were deeply committed to fellowship with a 'devotion' and 'steadfastness'.

5. Develop life building fellowship by....

- Active commitment to corporate worship, prayers, teaching, communion, etc.
- Being together in large and small gatherings.
- Hospitality, sharing and generosity.
- Active involvement in Church life.
- Contributing to others.
- Building strong friendships with God's people!

Acts 2:42-47.And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:25. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Let us commit ourselves to build great fellowship - Koinonia!