

GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

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

I. WHY IS FELLOWSHIP IMPORTANT?

A. Because the Church is a family.

*“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong to the family of believers**.” Galatians 6:10*

“You are a member of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19

Strong families have strong commitments and a sense of belonging.

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” I Peter 3:8

B. Because we need others to grow spiritually.

1. Others Help Us Grow Through Their encouragement.

“Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

“Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break ” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12

a. Through Their words.

“Judas and Silas, ... said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.” Acts 15:32

“Therefore encourage each other with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:18

b. Through Their example.

“Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good.” Titus 2:6-7

2. Others Help Us Grow Through Their knowledge.

“People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron.” Proverbs 27:17

“I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.” Romans 15:14

3. Others Help Us Grow Through Their correction.

*"Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should **restore** him gently ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:1-2

Fellowship makes us accountable to other Christians.

C. Because We Are Obligated To Other Christians.

"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other." 1 Peter 4:10

"There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." I Corinthians 12:5-27

The "One Anothers" Of Fellowship (Partial List)

Serve one another	Galatians 5:13
Accept one another	Romans 15:7
Forgive one another	Colossians 3:13
Greet one another	Romans 16:16
Bear one another's burdens	Galatians 6:2
Be devoted to one another	Romans 12:10
Honor one another	Romans 12:10
Teach one another	Romans 15:14
Submit to one another	Ephesians 5:21
Encourage one another	1 Thessalonians 5:11

D. Because fellowship is a testimony to the world.

(Jesus) *"My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind ... so the world will believe you sent me."* John 17:21

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:34-35

II. HOW CAN GROWING CHURCHES MAINTAIN A CLOSE SENSE OF FELLOWSHIP?

Every member needs to be a part of a small group.

*"(They met) day after day, in the **Temple courts** and from **house to house**."*

Acts 5:42

2 Types Of Church Meetings

Large Group: worship

Small Group: fellowship

"Greet the church that meets in their home." Romans 16:5

Also Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15

Our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time.