

Fellowship

What is fellowship?

- ❖ friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests. (Oxford Languages Dictionary)
- ❖ koinonia: partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions)

The Importance of Partnership & Participation

- ❖ For fellowship, there must be partnership and participation – 1 John 2:15-20
- ❖ This is why we say we have no fellowship with darkness – Eph. 5:11
 - We don't partner or participate in it or it's schemes and objectives
 - Mere association does not indicate true fellowship – John 8:39-47; 1 John 4:20

What does fellowship look like? Acts 2:42-47

- ❖ Helpful – Psalm 119:63
 - Based on what we have in common - Romans 1:11-12
 - For everyone's encouragement and refreshing - Romans 15:32, 1 Thes. 5:11
 - To sharpen each other - Proverbs 27:17
 - Fellowship produces cooperation
- ❖ Unfruitful – 1 John 1:6; Eph. 5:11
 - Leads to division – Rom. 16:17

Our fellowship is greater than each person – 1 Cor. 1:9

- ❖ It is a calling away from and into – 1 Cor. 10:20; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11
 - Called into:
 - Fellowship in the Gospel – Phil. 1:5
 - Fellowship of the Spirit – Phil. 2:1
 - Fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ – 1 John 1:3, 6-7
 - Fellowship of His sufferings –
- ❖ It comes with shared responsibilities – 2 Cor. 8:4; Eph. 4:11-16
 - To assemble – Heb. 10:25
 - To love – 1 John 3:14
 - To persevere – Mark 13:13; Phil. 1:6
 - To edify – Rom. 14:19; 1 Thes. 5:11
 - To strengthen – Heb. 3:12-14
 - To glorify God – Psa. 29:1-2
 - To draw others into the fellowship with Christ – Mat. 28:18-20

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What does a healthy fellowship look like?

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13
- ❖ Unity with God and each other – John 17:21; Mat. 18 (emp. Vs 20)
- ❖ Diversity – Isa. 56:6-8; Acts 2:1-13
- ❖ Worship of God – 1 John 1:6-7
- ❖ Accountability – 1 John 2:15-20
- ❖ Support – Ecc. 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 12:14-26; Gal. 6:2
- ❖ Validation – Gal. 2:9
- ❖ Devotion – Acts 2:42
- ❖ Selflessness – Acts 4:32
 - Do we pray for each other?
- ❖ A safe place – Ecc. 4:9-12
- ❖ Forgiveness – Mat. 6:14-15

Are we to judge within the fellowship?

- ❖ Let's consider Mat. 7:1-6
- ❖ Let's consider 1 Cor. 5:12-13