

# FELLOWSHIP



Some things are essential for one to grow as a healthy believer, and ignoring the fundamentals of anything can prove to have consequences. One of the many things that are often ignored by believers is the place and importance of fellowship. If the early church took fellowship very seriously, that should point us to the fact that it plays an important part in Christianity (see Acts 2:42). There are many reasons why people go to church, some go to pray, others go to hear the word of God, there are also those that attend church because they serve there. With all those reasons, it's important to note that we also go to church to fellowship with each other.

Fellowship in its own is so important to God because it was the reason for which He created us. The reason why God created men in His likeness and image was because He wanted to fellowship (see Genesis 1:26).

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 (Genesis 3:8). In this scripture, we see that God would fellowship with Adam on a continuous base until they sinned. It was the sin that broke the fellowship between man and God.

Despite man's disobedience, God has always found a way to reach out to humanity to fellowship with them. To the point where He gave His Son as the ultimate sacrifice to reestablish the fellowship with Him.

However, fellowship with God isn't the only kind of fellowship that the bible recommends, in fact, the Bible stresses the importance of fellowship. And we see it in Hebrews 10:25 (GNV) "Not forsaking the fellowship that we have among ourselves, as the manner of some is: but let us exhort one another, and that so much the more because ye see that the day draweth near."

Jesus said in John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." Loving one another will cause us to fellowship with each other and that's how others will know that we belong to Him. The act of fellowship is a trademark of believers, but we see so many Christians ignoring its importance.

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Even in prayer; we find that there is a place for personal prayer, where you pray alone in the secret place (see Matthew 6:6). There is also a place for collective or corporate prayer (2 Chronicles 7:14) and both prayer settings are important and they yield results. But let's have a look at corporate prayer from the above scripture in 2 Chronicles 7:17. It says "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land". Corporate prayer is a sign of unity for a common purpose, and it has the power to change nations (heal the land). Jesus reassure His presence when people gather or fellowship in His name, "for where two or three gathers in my name, there am I with them" Matthew 18:20.

Fellowship is a friendly association with people whom you share the same interest, and as Christians, Christ is our common interest.

So our fellowship extends beyond sitting and listening to the same sermon on a Sunday to include the communion after the 'amen' is said. The interaction with each other is very beneficial, it is amazing how people find it easy to 'fellowship' at secular events but rush home after the last prayer is made.



God instituted godly fellowship because He knew it would be essential for one's faith and spiritual growth. It is to one's benefit to be part of a godly fellowship because there is an exchange that happens when believers commune with each other. It pleases God to see His people in together which in turn produces unity (see Psalms 133).

So whenever you feel discouraged from partaking in fellowship, be mindful that the godly gathering and communion will impart something to you. Firstly being in a healthy Christian community reaffirms your identity in Christ and it reminds you of His love. Sometimes we drown into a cycle of sin because we are alone and feel condemned by what we've done in the past. So fellowship is an answer to dealing with personal sin because you get helped and become encouraged to live a life that resembles that of Christ. We are valuable to God, and as we fellowship we show each other how valuable we are.

Another benefit of fellowship is that it offers a platform for us to know each other and grow closer in love. Fellowship offers the platform for believers to express agape love.

John 17:20-21 has the last prayer that Jesus made over His disciples and those that believe in Him. He prayed to say, "My prayer is not for them (disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." It is God's desire for us to fellowship and that way we will be one with each other.



Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." It's important to know that you have a role in the body of Christ, and that role is sometimes played as you fellowship. Your absence in the house of God can mean that someone won't receive what they could only get from you. Fellowship will lead to the completion of the Body of Christ.

One of the biggest reasons why the devil fights fellowship is because it's easier for him to strike you down when you're alone. It is easier for a predator to catch its prey when it's isolated. So one of the biggest benefits of fellowship is that it keeps you grounded, strong and protected. Exodus 17:12 says "When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset." If Moses was alone on that mountain, who would have kept his hands lifted? Fellowship gives you a supportive family that will help you keep your hands up even when you are tired.



We need to fellowship with one another, that way we will know each other better. And through fellowship, we can pray for each other knowing what they need or struggle with. There are some things you'll never know how to do unless you fellowship. There are certain sins that we'll keep struggling with unless we fellowship and build accountability.

Fellowship will sort out some challenges you face, or bring solutions to questions and problems you may have. Find Joy in the fellowship with God, but also with the brethren of which God has given us.

