

February 6, 2005  
Shepherd's Community Church  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Selected Scriptures

“Growing in Your Relationship with Other Believers: *Fellowship*”

INTRO:

**I. What is Fellowship?**

A. Definitions

1. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary: (a) companionship, company, associate (verb); (b) the community of interest, activity, feeling or experience, i.e., a unified body of people of equal rank *sharing* in common interests, goals, and characteristics, etc.; (c) partnership, membership.
  - a. Fellowship means being a part of a group, a body of people. It is opposed to isolation, solitude, loneliness, and our present-day independent kind of individualism.
  - b. Fellowship means having or sharing with others certain things in common such as interest, goals, feelings, beliefs, activities, labor, privileges and responsibilities, experiences, and concerns.
  - c. Fellowship can mean a partnership that involves working together and caring for one another as a company of people, like a company of soldiers or members of a family.
2. Bible (Greek words):
  - a. Koinos = “common, mutual, public. That which is held in common.”
  - b. Koinonia (n.) or koinoneo (vb.) = “to share together, take part together” (in the sense of partnership or participation), and “to share with” (in the sense of giving to others).
  - c. Koinonos = “a partner, associate, companion” (2 Cor. 8:23; Lk. 5:10; Phil. 1:7) or “a partaker, sharer” (1 Cor. 10:18-20; 2 Cor. 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:4). Koinonikos = “ready to share or partake” (1 Tim. 6:18).
  - d. Metochos = “to have with, to have together; a sharing in, a partaking of” (Heb. 3:1, 14; 6:4; 12:8); and “a partner, associate” (Heb. 1:9; Lk. 5:7)
  - e. Metoche = sharing, fellowship, partnership (2 Cor. 6:14)

## B. Applications

1. Relationship (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:3; Acts 2:42)
  
2. Partnership (Luke 5:7, 10; 2 Cor. 8:23; Phile 17; Phil. 1:5; Gal. 2:9; Heb. 1:9; 3:1, 14; Heb. 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:5-6)
  
3. Companionship (interchange, communion, sharing)
  - a. Vertical
  
  - b. Horizontal
    - 1) Assembling as a whole body (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25)
    - 2) Assembling in smaller groups (2 Tim. 2:2)
    - 3) Meeting one-on-one (1 Thess. 5:11)
    - 4) Sharing and communicating truth together and building up one another (Rom. 1:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Thess. 5:11; Phile 6)
    - 5) Sharing together in worship, i.e., the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16), the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), prayer (1 Cor. 14:16-17), the ministry of the Word (Acts 20:20; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
    - 6) Sharing together as partners in the needs, burdens, concerns, joys, and blessings for the purpose of encouragement, comfort, challenge or exhortation, praise, prayer and physical help according to the needs and ability (cf. Phil. 1:5 with 1:19 and 2:4 with 1:27; 4:3; Rom. 12:15; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14, 15; Heb. 10:33)
  
4. Stewardship (Acts 2:42; Phil. 1:5; Heb. 10:33; koinoneo - Rom. 12:13; 15:27; Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:15; koinonia - Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 8:4; 9:13; Heb. 13:16; koinonikos – 1 Tim. 6:18; metecho – 1 Cor. 9:10). See also 2 Cor. 8:12-15; 3 John 5-8

## **II. With whom do we Fellowship?**

### **A. God**

1. Father (1 John 1:3)
2. Son (1 Cor. 1:9)
3. Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1; Heb. 6:4)

### **B. Believers (Eccles. 4:9-10; Prov. 27:17; 1 Cor. 12:12-18; Eph. 4:11-16; Rom. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:11-12; 1 John 1:7)**

- Not unbelievers!

## **III. Why is Fellowship important?**

(Taken from "Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church," by Donald Whitney)

- A. You experience the grace of God in ways you otherwise cannot (Acts 2:42)
- B. You experience the gifts and grace given to others (1 Peter 4:10; Eph. 4:15-16)
- C. Your practice of the spiritual disciplines is encouraged (Heb. 3:13)
- D. You experience love in ways you otherwise cannot (Jn. 13:34; 15:12, 178; 1 Jn. 3:23)
- E. The need for fellowship with the church is undeniable
- F. The neglect of fellowship with the church is sinful (Heb. 10:24-25)
- G. The pursuit of fellowship with the church is worthwhile (Prov. 18:24)

- BUT the privilege of fellowship with the church is costly (1 John 1:3)

#### IV. Questions that stimulate Fellowship

- What have you seen God do lately?
- What do you feel good about right now in the spiritual area of your life?
- Where are you having slow-going right now spiritually?
- How is your \_\_\_\_\_ ministry going? (For example, a ministry as a Sunday school teacher)
- How are you doing with the Spiritual Disciplines?
- What's the most meaningful thing that has happened to you since we last talked?
- What's the most important decision facing you in the near future?
- Have you read anything recently that has helped you spiritually?
- What's something the Lord has been teaching you lately?
- How can I pray for you?
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