

“Growing Our Church God’s Way: Fellowshipping-Part 1”

Selected Scriptures

Scripture reading: Acts 2:40-42 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

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I. The Definition of Fellowship (Acts 2:42)

1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

II. The Command to Fellowship (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

III. The Expression of Fellowship (Selected Scriptures)

1 Corinthians 14:26 “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying.**”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and **edify one another**, even as also ye do.”

1. The Church is Comanded to Love One-another

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, **and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**”

Romans 12:10 “*Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

1 Thessalonians 4:9 “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are **taught of God to love one another.**”

1 John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.”

1 John 3:17 “But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”

John 15:13-14 “**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** ¹⁴ **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**”

John 15:12 “**This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**”

Romans 5:6-8 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. The Church is Commanded to **Live** in Harmony with One-another

Romans 12:16 “*Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”

Acts 10:34-35 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; ¹³ And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

3. The Church is Commanded to **Welcome** One-another

Romans 15:7 “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

Romans 14:3 “Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.”

Matthew 10:24 “**The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord.**”

Matthew 11:29-20 “**Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

4. The Church is Commanded to **Admonish** One-another

Romans 15:14 “And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

5. The **Application**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 “And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”