

Fellowship

Biblical fellowship is defined as partnership and participation. It encompasses unity, community, sharing life, mutual encouragement, and spiritual partnership with other believers and with God.

In our "Relationship with God" classes, we discussed how to connect with God and stay close to Him. Really, we were talking about what it means to have fellowship with Him (**1 Corinthians 1:9**).

Yet this fellowship is not limited to our relationship with God; we are also called to live in meaningful fellowship with one another (**1 John 1:3, 7, Acts 2:42**).

The early church devoted themselves to fellowship. So, what did that kind of devotion to fellowship look like in practice?

- Regularly meeting together (**Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:46-47**).
- Motivating toward love and good deeds (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).
- Encouragement (**Romans 1:12**).
- Building each other up (**1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:29**).

Now that we understand what fellowship entails, let's examine its role in building up the church. Fellowship:

- Strengthens relationships within the Body of Christ (**John 13:35**).
- Encourages spiritual growth and accountability (**Proverbs 27:17**).
- Fuels unity and purpose (**Acts 4:32, Ephesians 4:3**).
- Gives an opportunity for the gifts of the Spirit (**1 Corinthians 12:7**).
- Strengthens the church's witness to the world (**Acts 2:46-47**).

Our culture may differ from that of the early believers, but our calling remains the same. Let's not settle for shallow connections or passive church attendance. Instead, let's choose to live in genuine fellowship; meeting together, encouraging one another, building each other up, and walking closely with God and His people.

Challenge

This week, be intentional about creating opportunities for fellowship. Step outside your usual circle and take time to connect with someone in your church you don't know well. It could be a meaningful conversation after a service, an invitation to coffee, or even opening your home for a meal. You might be the encouragement someone else needs, and they might be the encouragement you need!

