

The common problem: We might get more out of friendships with non-Christian friends than our fellowship with Christians. So.....

1. Friendship: based on common likes and dislikes, while fellowship is based on common identity

- a. As a person called to FELLOWSHIP, I must not only share common interests, I share Christ (read Romans 1:12)
- b. We are to give to others for their growth in Christ and receive from them for our own growth in Christ
 - i. So, are friendships unbiblical, then?

2. Friendships can be very selective, fellowship reaches out to those not like us

Read James 2:1-4, 8-9. Think of the mutual singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve by both German and American soldiers in WW I.

3. Friendships can be temporary; fellowship is permanent. John 6:47

4. Friendship is optional; fellowship is not

- a. Remember that the church is full of Christians IN PROCESS of being made like Jesus

5. We choose our friends; God chooses our fellowship

- a. This means you don't decide who needs to belong to the kind of church which you will join (x% elderly, x% teenagers, x% white collar, etc.)
- b. 1 Corinthians 12:18

6. Friendship places us in a special relationship with a person; fellowship places us in a special relationship with a family

- a. Ephesians 2:19-22
- b. We need one another. A missing member is a missed member. An absent member is losing out himself or herself, and the whole fellowship loses too.