

Fellowship in Action, Part 3

1. What is fellowship?
2. What is the foundation of fellowship?
3. What does the Bible teach about our real fellowship with one another (what we “share in”)?
 - a. We are one.
 - b. We have been added together.
 - c. We are family.
 - d. We are the body of Christ.
 - e. We are God’s building.
4. What does the Bible teach about the actions that support that fellowship (how we “share with”)?
 - a. We share meals
 - b. We share material things
 - c. We share spiritual things

Learning Together

"They were daily gaining a new understanding of [the Scriptures]. And as they individually learned from the apostles' teaching, they shared with one another what they were learning. This is fellowship: sharing with one another what God is teaching through the Scriptures, and this is an important part of true community.... We must learn ... to share with each other on a level that will enhance our spiritual relationships with one another and with God." (Jerry Bridges, *True Community*, 13)

Ephesians 4:15-16 *Speaking the truth in love ... the whole body ... makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

Malachi 3:16 *Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.*

Romans 1:11-12 *I long to see you ... that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

It will be hard to share the fellowship of spiritual things

- if we are spiritually _____.
- if we are spiritually _____.
- if we are spiritually _____.
- if we are spiritually _____.

“Here a word of warning is needed. Those who have learned to share easily with others what they are learning from God face the danger of failing to listen to what another Christian is saying. Too often we are so eager to share what we have learned that we fail to hear what God is saying to us through another believer. In such a case we are not really interested in fellowship but rather in displaying our own knowledge of Scripture. We are playing spiritual one-upmanship. For those who have this temptation, it would be well to remember the words of Jesus when He prayed, ‘I praise you, Father ... because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children’ (Luke 10:21). God may very well have something to say to us through one who speaks with stammering lips and a halting tongue.” (Jerry Bridges, *True Community*, 65-66)

Praying Together

Jude 20-21 building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God,

Praising Together

Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Ps. 149:1; Ps. 107:32; Ps. 35:18; Ps. 22:22,
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Conclusion

"We should not ... think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercises of private devotion. We should recognize rather that such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow-Christians, and requires to be so fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment." (J.I. Packer, cited in Jerry Bridges, *True Community*, 60)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.... And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.