

IGNITE INSTITUTE | HOW TO GROW

CLASS 9: FELLOWSHIP

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day-by-day, attending the temple together and breaking break in their homes; they received their food with glad and generous hearts. Praising God and having favor with all the people. And The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:44-47

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

1. Christian Fellowship is Rooted in the Gospel

God is faithful by whom you were called into the fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:18-21)

→ Of primary importance, we have **relationship with God** through Jesus Christ.

→ Because of our relationship with God, we are unified and have **relationship with one another**.

- “We are relational beings because we are made in the image of a relational God.”³⁹ (Plass, R. & Cofield, J.)

2. Christian Fellowship is Marked by Love

By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)

→ The love believers have toward one another is distinct from the world in its...

- Generosity
- Commitment
- Common purpose

3. Christian Fellowship is Vital to the Life of a Believer

Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’ (Genesis 2:18)

Take care, brothers, lest there be any of you an evil unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day...that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:12-13)

³⁹ Cofield, J & Plass, R. (2014). *The Relational Soul: Moving from False Self to Deep Connection.*, (IVP Books), 13.

→ Isolation is unhealthy.

- Fellowship is a tool used to keep believers on a healthy path.

EVERYDAY FELLOWSHIP

1. Discipleship

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:40)

→ A disciple is a student, apprentice, or follower.

2. The Ministry of Listening

“True sustained, active listening is a great act of faith, and great means of grace, both for ourselves and for others in fellowship.”⁴⁰ (David Mathis)

Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. (James 1:19)

The purpose in a mans heart is like deep water but a man of understanding will draw it out. (Proverbs 20:5)

→ Listening as a discipline:

- Good listening is patient
- Good listening asks perceptive questions
- Good listening is a loving, healing service

3. Confession⁴¹ (Capitol Hill Baptist)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

→ Confession is always accompanied by repentance.

→ Christ's blood is “the basis for God's forgiveness.”⁴²

FELLOWSHIP WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. Church Membership

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

→ Covenant relationship under God's headship within the local church is healthy for the individual believer, the whole congregation, and its leadership.

⁴⁰ Mathis, David (2016). *Habits of Grace, Enjoying Jesus through Spiritual Disciplines.*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 152-154.

⁴¹ Capitol Hill Baptist. “Class 6: Confession.” *Core Seminars | Capitol Hill Baptist*, <http://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/sermon/class-6-confession/>.

⁴² Ibid.

2. Corporate Worship

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' (Revelation 7:9-10)

→ “Worship is an end in itself.”⁴³ (David Mathis)

- Worship within our local church gives us a glimpse into eternity.

3. Communion

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' (Luke 22:19)

→ Communion is a rehearsal of the gospel with other believers.⁴⁴ (David Mathis)

4. Baptism

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

→ Baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation.

- When Christians gather together for baptism, we acknowledge, celebrate, and affirm God's work of salvation in the life of our brother or sister.

⁴³ Mathis, David (2016). *Habits of Grace, Enjoying Jesus through Spiritual Disciplines.*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 157.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 180-181.