

Living in Fellowship

The Living Series is a set of 10 teachings that the Lord led me to put together to equip new believers in the fundamentals of following the Lord Jesus Christ.

These teachings are also designed to serve as refreshers on the fundamentals for those who have been walking with the Lord for any amount of time.

“Doing Life with God’s Family”

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

- **We were made for companionship. This principle is foundational for our relationship with the LORD.**
- The Old Testament describes fellowship as; a calling together, a sacred assembly, a convocation. God is into gathering His people together; the 7 feasts make this obvious.
- The New Testament Greek word for fellowship is koinonia. Koinonia means, fellowship, sharing, oneness, communion.
- Christian fellowship is more than human friendship, it is deep, spiritual partnership and sharing life in Christ.
- The Lord never designed a Christian to live out the faith, alone.
- Christianity is meant to be lived out with the family of God.
- There is a popular unbiblical statement that has people living in self-deception and disobedience to God’s word; “I don’t have to go to Church to be a Christian.” You do, if you want to be a biblical Christian.
- The Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul both wrote letters to Churches.
- Another popular statement that can encourage this type of disobedience is; “We are the Church, not the building.” That is a half-truth. Both the building and the people are the Church.
- It has been said, “The Church is not a building where God’s people meet.” However, equally true, “God’s people are the Church who meet in a building.”
- A building is not all that God’s people have to offer.

Why Does Fellowship Matter?

- **The Growth of Each Believer**: in fellowship with other Christians, there exists, a mutual accountability and the opportunity to share God's wisdom which helps conform us into the image of Christ.
- **Protect Each Believer from Sin**: Isolation lets sin hide in the darkness; community brings light, confession, and healing.
- **Each Believer is a Part of the Body of Christ**: Just as a body has many parts, diverse believers use unique spiritual gifts to display God's glory together.

Acts 2:40-47 ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls **were added to them**.

- ***They were not just saved, they were added to the family of faith.***

⁴² And **they continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- ***The first Christians consistently did these four things together.***

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

⁴⁴ **Now all who believed were together**, and had all things in common,

- ***The first Christians were doing life together.***

⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ **So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

- ***The first Christians did not limit their time together; they actually limited their time away from each other.***

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved**.

- ***The Lord saves people and adds them to His family.***

- **Acts 5:14** And **believers were increasingly added to the Lord**, multitudes of both men and women,

Psalm 133:1-3 ¹ Behold, **how good and how pleasant it is**
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

² **It is like the precious oil upon the head,**

Running down on the beard,

The beard of Aaron,

Running down on the edge of his garments.

³ **It is like the dew of Hermon,**

Descending upon the mountains of Zion;

For there the Lord commanded the blessing—

Life forevermore.

- **God's anointing upon His congregation is connected to the unity of the Family in that Church.**
- **The Holy Spirit is grieved by carnal disunity and drama amongst fellow believers.**
- **At Calvary Chapel Toppenish, we endeavor to keep a drama-free atmosphere, through prayer, and being quick to handle situations.**
- **When Church hurt is brought up, I want to get to the bottom of it before it spreads and causes disunity and division.**

Romans 12:10-13 ¹⁰ **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;**

- **Kind affection, brotherly love and giving preference to other Christians takes place in community.**

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, **given to hospitality.**

- **It is difficult to show hospitality without being an invitational and desiring to be together.**

Philippians 1:3-5 ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ **for your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now,

- ***The Gospel is at the center of why we have fellowship with each other.***

Hebrews 3:12-13 ¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

¹³ but **exhort one another daily**, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- ***Personal encouragement is better than virtual encouragement.***

Hebrews 10:23-25 ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

- ***Personal consideration is better than virtual consideration.***
- ***If a person is not showing up, they are not stirring up love, and they are not where they can be stirred up to love.***

²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- ***Christians are not to be abandoning the gathering with other believers.***
- ***Christians should not develop the habit of avoiding Christian fellowship.***
 - ***"When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops, praying, the devil shouts for joy." -Corrie Ten Boom***
- ***There was a time when Church was the reason to miss everything else. Now everything else is a reason to miss Church.***
- ***Christians should be there for each other more in these last days.***

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, **that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

- ***The Lord is involved in the fellowship of His people.***

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with **one another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- ***Compromising with sin is one of the main reasons why Christians avoid Christian Fellowship.***

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ⁹ **Two are better than one,**

Because they have a good reward for their labor.

¹⁰ **For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.**

But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls,

For *he has* no one to help him up.

¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;

But how can one be warm *alone*?

¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, **two can withstand him.**

And **a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

- ***There is strength in unity.***
- ***We practice unity without uniformity.***
- ***We practice unity through conformity to Christ.***

Psalm 54:4 Behold, God *is* my helper;

The LORD is with those who uphold my life.

- ***The Church exists to uphold each other.***
- ***"Satan always hates Christian Fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation." -Charles Spurgeon***

Closing exhortations:

- ***Our love for the Lord is measured by our daily fellowship with other believers and the love that it displays.***
- ***There is a place for you in the family of God.***
- ***The best way to get involved is to volunteer.***
- ***The best way to feel like you fit in, is to get in.***
- ***Refrain from coming late and leaving early.***
- ***In the next session, we will look at; "living to serve."***
- **Psalm 122:1** I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go into the house of the LORD."