

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

Participating in God's Family

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other." Heb. 10:25 (GN)

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Gal. 6:10

"The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord." Dr. Ray Ortland

"You are a member of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others!" Rom. 12:5

2. I NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds."
Heb. 10:24 (Ph)

"Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break." Eccl. 4:9-10,12 (GN)

3. I NEED ACCOUNTABILITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron." Pr. 27:17 (GN)

"Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin."
Heb. 3:13 (JB)

"Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:1-2

4. CHRIST IS PRESENT WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"
Matt 18:20 (GN)

5. THERE IS POWER WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matt. 18:19 (GN)

6. FELLOWSHIP IS A WITNESS TO THE WORLD.

(Jesus) "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind .. so the world will believe you sent me." John 17:21(LB)

7. I AM OBLIGATED TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN

"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other ..." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)

HOW CAN A LARGE CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO BE A PART OF A SMALL GROUP.

"(They met) day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house." Acts 5:42

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?

Acts 2:42-47

1. BIBLE STUDY

"They DEVOTED THEMSELVES to the apostle's teaching..."

2. FELLOWSHIP

" ...and to the fellowship ..."

3. COMMUNION

" ... and to the breaking of bread ..."

4. PRAYER

" ... and to prayer ..."

"OUR FATHER ... give US ... OUR daily bread ... forgive
US ... OUR ... debts ... as WE have forgive OUR debtors ...
lead US not into temptation ... deliver US ..." Matt 6:9-13

5. SUPPORT

" ... they gave to anyone as he had a need ..."

" ... you shared with me the fellowship of giving and
receiving." Phil. 4:15 (Ph)

6. SOCIAL

" ... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts ..."

"Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner
or if they need lodging, for the night." Rom. 12:13 (LB)

7. PRAISE

" ... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

8. OUTREACH

"And the Lord added to their number daily those
who were being saved."