

Steven Condy

SESSION 4 | THE GIFT OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP– USING OUR WORDS TO BUILD ONE ANOTHER

Key Text: Romans 1:11–12

Key Supporting Text: Proverbs 18:21

I. WHAT FELLOWSHIP IS – AND WHAT IT ISN'T

J. I. Packer, in *God's Words: Studies of Key Bible Themes*, warns about confusing social activity with spiritual fellowship. He writes:

“The fact that we share social activities with other Christians does not of itself imply that we have fellowship with them... It fools us into thinking that we are thriving on fellowship when all the time our souls may be starving for lack of it.”

- **Fellowship Begins Vertically Before It Moves Horizontally**
- Packer explains that Christian fellowship is a sharing of what God has made known to us

The Two Directions of Fellowship Words

Romans 1 teaches us that fellowship flows in two directions:

1. Words That Strengthen Others
2. Words That Humbly Receive Help

The Courage of Honesty and the Humility of Approachability

Paul David Tripp, in *War of Words*, explains that gospel-shaped communication requires:

- The courage of honesty
- The humility of approachability

Three Practical Ways to Use Words in Christian Fellowship

- 1. Speak Scripture Naturally**
- 2. Ask Intentional Questions**
- 3. Practice Confession and Forgiveness**

Hindrances to Biblical Fellowship

Packer notes that one major obstacle is self-sufficiency.

Words That Give Life

Charles Spurgeon once said:

“The church is most healthy when the members feed one another with the truth of God.”

John MacArthur summarizes this well:

“Spiritual growth flourishes in an environment of biblical encouragement.”

- 1. Every Word Should Point to Christ**
- 2. Every Word Should Strengthen Faith**
- 3. Every Word Should Reflect Humility**

The Redemption of Words

Because of the gospel:

- Our words no longer need to hide sin—they can confess it.
- Our words no longer need to impress—they can serve.
- Our words no longer need to control—they can encourage.

Practical Outworking

This week, aim for three intentional types of gospel speech in fellowship:

- 1. One Scripture**
- 2. One Honest Statement**
- 3. One Specific Encouragement**



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