

Christian Values:

Fellowship - Week 3

Hebrews 10



Introduction

Fellowship is an electric reality in the Bible, an indispensable ingredient in the Christian faith, and one of God's chief means of grace in our lives. The *koinonia* - Greek for commonality, partnership, fellowship - that the first Christians shared wasn't anchored in shared interests and similar culture. Instead, its essence was in their connection to Christ, and their shared life-or-death mission together.

Christian fellowship is a "partnership in the gospel" (Philippians 1:5), among those giving their everything to "advance the gospel" (1:12), knit together for "progress and joy in the faith" (1:25). It is the fellowship in which, as Paul says to Christians, "You are all partakers with me of grace...in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" (1:7).

(excerpt from Habits of Grace, David Mathis)

Guiding Principles

During this season of Community Groups, our church will spend time looking at four ideas

we want to value more completely. We believe that by clarifying these ideas, we can move toward a more fruitful and joy-filled relationship with God. Those are:

- Jesus' Glory (weeks 1,2)
- The Church's Fellowship (weeks 3,4)
- Mission in the church (weeks 5,6)
- Mission outside the church (7&8)

Prepare for Group

Read

- Before coming to group, please read: [Philippians 1](#).

Think

- As you read it, listen to how Paul (the writer of Philippians) both wants to serve and be served by the people of this church. You may want to underline the instances where he expresses his desires for them.
- When you meet together with other believers do you share in Paul's passionate fight to increase their love and knowledge of Jesus?

During Group:

Discussion Question 1:

Read [Hebrews 10:24-25](#). And pay attention to the urgency and seriousness of meeting together. What are some ways you have contributed to stirring-up love and good works in another believer? How have others done that for you?

Discussion Question 2:

Read [Hebrews 3:12-13](#). What sounds appealing to you about this kind of community? Does this maybe sound unappealing to you? If so, why?

Notice that the writer doesn't say if you are drifting away you should try harder. Instead, it puts the responsibility on others in the community to exhort (strongly urge or warn) the drifter.

Further Study

- Want to learn more about what stirring one another on is? Here's an [article](#).