

# Christian Values:

## *Fellowship - Week 4*

### Revelation 7:9-12



### Introduction

Last week we saw that Christian Fellowship is more than friendly relations and shared interests. Instead, it is a shared mission to see God glorified in one another and across the world. In fellowship, the stakes are high and relationships deeply matter. But where do we develop these kinds of mission-oriented life-giving relationships? This week we'll look at two broad answers. We'll see how God has designed us to do this in church and outside of the church.

We were made for more than private devotions. As nice as it might be to read the Scriptures we want to read, pray the prayers we prefer, play the songs we like, and memorize the verses we pick - this is not the pinnacle of our Christian lives. We were made to worship Jesus *together*. Among the multitude. With the great horde. God didn't create us to enjoy him finally as solitary individuals, but as happy members of a countlessly large family from every tongue and tribe and nation.

We were made for corporate worship.

(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: Revelations 5:11 and Revelation 7:9-12

#### Think

- As you read it, try to wrap your head around how big these scenes might be.
- As the saying goes "a shared joy is a double joy". In corporate worship, the graces and benefits we uniquely enjoy are not only awakening, assuring, practice in accepting others' leadership, but also the accentuated joy of deeper and richer and greater adoration and awe, since our delight in Jesus *expands* as we magnify him together with others.
- What are some ways this happens in church? and what are some ways you can use your life outside of church time to cultivate this kind of experience?

**During Group:**

## Discussion Question 1:

**Read Revelation 7:9-12. Notice how when all is said and done people are still glorifying God - together. What benefits do you see that worshipping together has over private worship?**

We're not suggesting private worship has no value. There are plenty of Biblical examples of highly effectual worship (Daniel in the lion's den, Jesus retreating off by himself, etc) You should also do that. But in corporate worship, have you ever felt the assurance and safety of knowing others who have similar stories to yours still can worship God? Have you ever felt encouraged by the words the person behind you sang? Has your heart ever awakened at the baptism of another? Or have you found peace in taking communion with a brother you have sinned against?

## Discussion Question 2:

**Read Acts 2:42-43. Look at the 4 things that bring about 'awe' in the believers. Does 'fellowship and breaking bread' feel out of place in the list with teaching and praying? Should it?**

**What are some real ways in the next month you *plan* to or *could* plan to fellowship with other believers outside of church?**

I urge you to do them. Do more of those things. For your sake and the sake of others. We need each other. Eat food with one another to the glory of God. We'll have a few weeks off from the curriculum to during the Easter season. Please take the time to do it.

## Further Study

- Want to learn more about how fellowship helps you? Here is an [article](#) that goes in depth on how fellowship helps preserve you.