



Victory Wednesday Bible Study Series

Fighting the Good Fight

Principles of Faith for Living the Abundant Life

Week 3 – Christian Fellowship

Introduction

Webster's Dictionary defines fellowship simply as being in the company of others or participating in shared activities. Yet for the Christian believer, fellowship transcends casual companionship or social engagement. It is spiritual, covenantal, and deeply rooted in our shared life in Christ. This study will explore the biblical concept of fellowship (koinonia), showing how it differs from secular companionship, and how it serves as a vital component of victorious Christian living.

Biblical Definition of Christian Fellowship:

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship..." **Acts 2:42**

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "fellowship" is koinonia, meaning "to share," "to participate," or "to have in common." Christian fellowship is not merely about being together—it is about sharing the life of Christ and growing together in faith, love, and spiritual maturity.

For the believer Koinonia is having a relationship with Christ and sharing the life of Christ with one another in a way that results in individual and corporate spiritual growth. Christian fellowship, then, is the joining together of believers in an environment conducive to experiencing the love of Christ through sharing life experiences, praying, supporting one another, and presenting opportunities for growing together spiritually in grace and truth.

- "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." **Hebrews 10:24-25**
- "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." **Proverbs 27:17** In true Christian fellowship Christians sharpen one another's faith and stir one another to exercise that faith in love and good works, all to God's glory.
- "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity..." **Psalms 133:1-3**
- "And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language ... now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." **Genesis 11:6**

Contrasting Christian and Secular Fellowship

Christian Fellowship

- Christ-centered and Spirit-led
- Motivated by Love, truth, & spiritual growth
- Strengthens faith and community
- Builds the body of Christ
- Anchored in covenant and accountability

Secular Fellowship

- Common interest or social bonds
- Motivated by pleasure, entertainment, or gain
- Often lacks eternal or spiritual purpose
- Builds social networks or affiliations
- Based on convenience or shared preference

Characteristics of Fellowship:

Unity

- True Fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. "...That you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ." **1John1:3**
- "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil..." **1 Peter 3:8-12**

Love

- "Let Love be without hypocrisy...be kindly affectionate to one another in brotherly love..." **Romans 12:9-10; 1Corinthians 13**

Peace

- "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." (**Colossians 3:15**) Peace is what God restored to humanity through Christ and acts as the glue that holds the body of believers together.
- "If it is possible, as much as depends on you live peaceably with all men." **Romans 12:18**
- "The wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,..." **James 3:17-18**

Diligence

- "...Be steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord..." **1 Corinthians 15:58**
- "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord..." **Romans 12:11-13**

Service

- "...Inasmuch as you did it for one of these the least of my brethren..." (**Matthew 25: 3-40**)

Class Activity: *List other key attributes of Christian Fellowship, find at least one supporting scripture for each, and discuss them.*

Conclusion

Christian fellowship is rooted in our shared identity in Christ and extends far beyond mere social interaction. It is intentional, covenantal, spiritual, and it involves meeting together to pray, study God's Word, encourage one another, bear each other's burdens, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Christian fellowship offers depth, unity, and divine purpose. It is the environment in which believers are sharpened, strengthened, and sent forth. As we walk in true fellowship with one another, we reflect the unity of the Godhead and bear witness to the transforming power of the gospel. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) Let us value and nurture godly fellowship, knowing it is one of God's ordained means of living the abundant life He promises.

Presenter: Marlon D. Mitchell

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