

Fellowship: Caring for One Another

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I. Introduction.

A. “Fellowship” which is a translation of *koinonia*, means to have something in common. (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3)

B. Fellowship is the sharing of life in Jesus Christ. It is both subjective (experiential) and objective (sharing our spiritual and physical resources). (John 15:5)

C. Fellowship is caring for one another.

1. We are called to a mutual relationship among our peers as “one another” verses instruct.

2. Paul expected to benefit and impart in the body.

D. There are four reasons to carry out caring for one another. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

II. A good return for your work.

A. The Word and prayer should be the focus of our fellowship with one another.

B. Fellowship with God is the foundation and objective of our fellowship with one another.

C. Christian fellowship is the means of finding strength and refreshment for our own work. (Proverbs 27:17)

III. Help when one falls (to encourage).

A. To encourage is to inspire one another with courage. Courage is the mental or moral strength to persevere in times of adversity.

B. We can persevere because we know God is faithful. (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; 10:35-36)

C. The body of Christ needs encouragement in light of disappointment and loss.

D. We need to know that someone cares and that God cares. (Psalm 142:4)

IV. Warmth (to stimulate).

A. Briquettes must be gathered to stay warm. (Hebrews 10:2)

B. We must give careful thought about how to stimulate one another to accomplish our Christian duties. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

V. Defense.

A. We need to be open to accountability—stimulation should be mutual. (James 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

VI. Conclusion.

A. We should seek to encourage one another on a regular basis. We should start before a crisis.

B. We need to take initiative and become sensitive to one another. (Philippians 2:20-21)

C. Ask God for one or two people that you can develop a close caring relationship with.

Application questions:

1. What are some wrong ways Christians can do fellowship?

2. How is our fellowship with God the foundation and objective of our fellowship with people? Explain.

3. What are some creative ways you can encourage some people in your circles this week? Explain.
