

Why Should Christians Fellowship With One Another?

Whether before or after worship services or in one another's homes, many Christians enjoy what is called "fellowship."

We need to ask ourselves the question: *'If I was unable to attend worship services for several weeks would I miss the fellowship?'*

More interestingly, we should consider; *'Would other people miss my fellowship with them?'*

1 John 1:3-4 [NIV] *"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete."*

Fellowship is **not** a time to gossip or criticise.

Fellowship is **not** a time to boast or show off our intellect.

Fellowship is **not** a time to dig into one another's life, either out of curiosity or the tendency to interfere.

Fellowship is **never** an opportunity to tear down others.

James 3:5-7 [NIV] *"Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,"*

James makes it very clear that the tongue is a potentially lethal weapon.

If we criticise others or air grievances during opportunities for fellowship, we need to repent and replace bad communication with good communication.

True fellowship is the meeting of like minds and our minds only truly meet in spiritual fellowship when God the Father and Jesus Christ are part of that fellowship.

Acts 2:41-42 [NIV] *"Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. **They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**"*

This is the clue to what real fellowship involves.

Those who had the spirit of God were eager to share with one another their prayers, their physical blessings and their conversion.

There was in the early church, as there always is in godly fellowship, a spiritual aspect.

Malachi 3:16-17 [NIV] *"**Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard.** A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name. *"They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him."**

Malachi reminds us that we please God when we speak to one another in godly fellowship.

The word “*fellow*” is used many times in the Christian Bible.

Fellow Citizens –

Ephesians 2:19 [NIV] “*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household,*”

Fellow Disciples –

John 11:16 [King James] “*Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*”

Fellow Heirs –

Ephesians 3:6 [King James] “*That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*”

Fellow Helpers –

3 John 8 [King James] “*We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.*”

Fellow Labourers –

Philippians 4:3 [NIV] “*Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life.*”

Fellow Workers –

Colossians 4:11 [NIV] “*Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.*”

All of these terms emphasise that we share a common calling, and the honour of being brothers and sisters in the created family of God.

This is what we truly have in common with one another.

After a hard week, the effort to share thoughts and experiences of Christian living with people from many different backgrounds and walks of life is **not** always easy.

Communication in a spiritual way takes effort.

Philippians 1:3, 5 [King James] “*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*” ... “*For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;*”

When our fellowship is “in the gospel” it is something to thank God for.

If we are sharing what we all should have in common, the Christian life, that is sharing the gospel message with others, then our conversation will “come alive”.

During truly spiritual fellowship we grow in understanding and love for one another.

We can remember the situations others have to face in our prayers.

Intercessory prayer for others will then “come alive”.

As a result of such fellowship the Body of Christ, His Church, is strengthened.

Even more amazing, we will experience a more intimate relationship with our Creator God.

If God is truly in us, then our fellowship will reflect this.