

## Fellowship

### What is fellowship?

- ❖ friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests. (Oxford Languages Dictionary)
- ❖ koinonia: partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions)

### The Importance of Partnership & Participation

- ❖ For fellowship, there must be partnership and participation – 1 John 2:15-20
- ❖ This is why we say we have no fellowship with darkness – Eph. 5:11
  - We don't partner or participate in it or its schemes and objectives
  - Mere association does not indicate true fellowship – John 8:39-47; 1 John 4:20

### What does fellowship look like? Acts 2:42-47

- ❖ Helpful – Psalm 119:63
  - Based on what we have in common - Romans 1:11-12
  - For everyone's encouragement and refreshing - Romans 15:32, 1 Thes. 5:11
  - To sharpen each other - Proverbs 27:17
  - Fellowship produces cooperation
- ❖ Unfruitful – 1 John 1:6; Eph. 5:11
  - Leads to division – Rom. 16:17

### Our fellowship is greater than each person – 1 Cor. 1:9

- ❖ It is a calling away from and into – 1 Cor. 10:20; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11
  - Called into:
    - Fellowship in the Gospel – Phil. 1:5
    - Fellowship of the Spirit – Phil. 2:1
    - Fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ – 1 John 1:3, 6-7
    - Fellowship of His sufferings –
- ❖ It comes with shared responsibilities – 2 Cor. 8:4; Eph. 4:11-16
  - To assemble – Heb. 10:25
  - To love – 1 John 3:14
  - To persevere – Mark 13:13; Phil. 1:6
  - To edify – Rom. 14:19; 1 Thes. 5:11
  - To strengthen – Heb. 3:12-14
  - To glorify God – Psa. 29:1-2
  - To draw others into the fellowship with Christ – Mat. 28:18-20

## Fellowship

### **What does a healthy fellowship look like?**

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13
- ❖ Unity with God and each other – John 17:21; Mat. 18 (emp. Vs 20)
- ❖ Diversity – Isa. 56:6-8; Acts 2:1-13
- ❖ Worship of God – 1 John 1:6-7
- ❖ Accountability – 1 John 2:15-20
- ❖ Support – Ecc. 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 12:14-26; Gal. 6:2
- ❖ Validation – Gal. 2:9
- ❖ Devotion – Acts 2:42
- ❖ Selflessness – Acts 4:32
  - Do we pray for each other?
- ❖ A safe place – Ecc. 4:9-12
- ❖ Forgiveness – Mat. 6:14-15

### **Are we to judge within the fellowship?**

- ❖ Let's consider Mat. 7:1-6
- ❖ Let's consider 1 Cor. 5:12-13

## Fellowship in the Upper Room

### Who's in the room?

- ❖ Acts 1:13-14
- ❖ Men and women – Acts 1:14

### What are they doing?

- ❖ Coming together on one accord (one mind)
- ❖ Praying and making supplications (petitions)
- ❖ Acting upon prayer

### Appointing Leaders – Acts 1:12-26

- ❖ This is so critical that it requires true fellowship amongst believers.
  - Why Matthias needed?
    - Judas betrayal
      - Purchased a field with the betrayal money – Mat. 27:3-10
        - ◆ The potter's field bought by the chief priests
- ❖ Had to close the void left by his office being vacant – Acts 1:16-20; Psa. 69:25; Psa. 109:8
  - The problem wasn't the office but the person in it
- ❖ Note that they chose from those that had been in the fellowship with them and Jesus – Acts 1:21
- ❖ Note the pattern: Peter gives the criteria and the people nominate accordingly
  - Joseph called Barsabbas (Justus) – Joseph means increase
  - Matthias – gift of the Lord
    - Believed to be one of the 70 – Luke 10:1, 17
- ❖ Note their prayer in Acts 1:24-25
  - Lord, give us who you have chosen
  - The apostolic ministry needs to go forth

**Addressing Discipline**

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13

**Restoration**

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13

**Meeting Needs**

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13

**Empathy & Checked Egos**

- ❖ Love – 1 John 4:11-13