

## Fellowship of Believers – 10/25/20

**TEXT- Acts 2:41-42** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

### INTRO – Fellowship A. Nouns.

1. koinonia - "communion, fellowship, sharing in common" (from koinos, "common")

**Webster** - mutual association of persons on equal and friendly terms

**Fellowship is first the sharing together in a common life with other believers through relationship with God through Jesus Christ.**

**Fellowship is first and foremost a relationship, rather than an activity.**

### Easton - Fellowship

- (1.) With God, consisting in the knowledge of his will and conformity to his image
- (2.) Of saints with one another, in duties; in grace, love, joy, etc. mutual interest, spiritual and temporal; in sufferings and in glory

## I. It is an action

### A. Communion

**1 Co 10:16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

**Phm 1:6** That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

### B. Contribution

**2 Co 8:4** Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

**Rom 15:26** For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

## II. Limited To Believers

### A. Because of Christ

**1 Co 1:9** God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**It is salvation in Christ that binds us together**

### B. Warnings about unbelievers

**1 Co 10:20-21** But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

**2 Co 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

**Eph 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

### C. United by the cause of preaching the gospel

**Gal 2:9** And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

### C. The mystery of fellowship

- **United by Christ – Eph 3:9** And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

**Php 3:10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**1 Jn 1:3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**1 Jn 1:6-7** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- **Prayer for believers - Php 1:3-6** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:
- **Comfort - Php 2:1-3** If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

**CONCL – We are to edify one another – 1 Th 5:11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

**A note found in the desk of a pastor who was martyred in Zimbabwe more than 100 years ago.**

**Php 3:20-4:3** *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. 2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

**I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.**

**My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.**

**I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudity, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer and labor by power.**

**My pace is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way rough. My companions few. My guide is reliable and my mission is clear.**

**I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.**

**I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.**

**I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.**

**I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give 'til I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!**