

Fellowship and Work with One Another

“One Anothering” 2023 Bible Study

Introduction: The Church as a Field and Building

*5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 **For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.** (1 Corinthians 3:5-6)*

you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)

Main point: *Equipped with Christlike love for one another, we work together as a church by setting aside our differences and unifying around the truth, using our gifts for the edification of the body.*

Clarifying Fellowship and Working Together

On Fellowship:

- The Greek word *koinonia* means “to hold something in common.”
- Fellowship cannot be understood without the word “participation.”
- Fellowship is not doing *anything* together, but doing *God's will* together.
- Fellowship comes from God.

Church is not a spectator sport! We are called to be active participants!

On Working Together:

- Being “fellow workers” means we have the same *mission*.
- Every believer has a part to play, no matter how (seemingly) small.
- Whatever we were gifted with, we are to use for God's glory, which builds his church!

The “One Others” about Fellowship and Working Together

Live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:16)

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to **live in such harmony with one another**, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore **welcome one another** as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7)*

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:6)

*As each has received a gift, **use it to serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10)*

Biblical Illustrations:

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35)

18 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (Acts 18:1-3)

Applications

1. Begin with the fellowship you have with God:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14)

that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

2. Remember the *mission* you have as a member of the church

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2:2 - will be discussed more in the teach one another class)

3. Discern those difference worth fighting over and those *not* worth the fight

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (Romans 14:1-4)

4. Use your gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor 12:4-7)