

FELLOWSHIP

The word “fellowship” used in the New Testament is the Greek word “**koinonia**.” It means things like “joint participation, community, partnership and participation.”

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “fellowship” as “a company of equals or friends; community of interest, activity, feeling or experience.”

I like to look at it as, “**doing life together**.”

▷ Question #1:

Why is fellowship important?

◆ **With God:**

Using God as an example, explain how He is in “fellowship” with Himself (the Trinity). Why does He say in Genesis 1:26; “Let US make man on OUR image, in OUR likeness . . . ?

How are we to have fellowship with God?

Why must this come first before we can have healthy godly relationships with one another?

Some key verses (with God):

- Romans 12:1-2
- Philippians 3:10
- 1 Corinthians 1:9-10
- 1 John 1:3-7
- Psalm 46:1 / 2 Thes. 3:3

◆ **With one another:**

- Discuss the benefits to you and to others when it comes to fellowship.
- Discuss the dangers of not being in fellowship with one another.

Some key verses (with one another):

- Ephesians 4:3-7,16
- Acts 2:42-47
- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The blessings and benefits of fellowship:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) It is God's design | 8) Function as a body |
| 2) Intimacy | 9) Comfort and support |
| 3) Encouragement | 10) Sharing each other's burdens |
| 4) Accountability | 11) Fun and enjoyment |
| 5) Mutual help | 12) Mutual protection |
| 6) Iron sharpening iron | |

The dangers of not being in fellowship:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Disobedience to God | 6) No help / you are on your own! |
| 2) Unhealthy | 7) Stinkin' thinkin' |
| 3) Isolation and loneliness | 8) No intimacy |
| 4) No encouragement | 9) Stagnation |
| 5) No accountability | 10) Sitting duck for Satan |
| | 11) No fun!!! |

▷ Question #2:

What is the difference between fellowship and associating with others?

For example, in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, we are commanded not to be “yoked” with unbelievers. So, how are we to be in the world and not of the world? What does it mean to be “yoked?”

▷ Question #3:

How do we set appropriate “boundaries” in our relationships to avoid intimacy (being yoked) with the wrong people, especially with loved ones or those we have grown up with or work with? (Rom. 12:2)

***We love to the extent that we are willing
to be vulnerable and inconvenienced!***