

Remnant Life Church
February 26, 2017
The Importance of Fellowship
Acts 2:42-47

- Much of today's personal electronic culture is designed to keep us connected with each other
- Some of that can be dangerous if not monitored and used with wisdom but it can be great to find old friends, schoolmates, etc...
- We have a word for that in the church as well – fellowship
 - It's how we stay connected
 - Part of the “churchese” language
 - A move in the mi 80's to mid 90's to avoid using words like saved, justified, redemption, and even sin for fear of offending people
 - These churches became known as ‘seeker sensitive’
- But fellowship is very important to the Christian
 - The absence of it has become an important tool for satan
 - He tries to isolate us in order to keep us from having fellowship with each other
- Why?
 - Because the Bible tells us that it is an important part of the Christian's life
 - Vital to our growth and maturity

READ – Acts 2:42-47

- This is the blueprint of the first church
- The foundation of the church was built on what we read in these 6 verses
 - There a lot of churches operating today who have gotten far away from this blueprint
 - What is fellowship?
 - Webster defines it as companionship, friendly association and mutual sharing of experiences, activities, and interests
 - In the original language of the NT Greek it is koinonia which carries a root meaning of common or shared
 - So the full meaning of the word is to participate with others either by sharing what you have with them or receiving what they have and offer to you
 - In other words – it is more than just physical proximity and being in the same place at the same time with someone else
 - Fellowship is investing in the lives of other people
- Look at the various components of the first church and how it is described in Acts 2
 - Teaching – v 42
 - Fellowship – v 42
 - Eating together – v 42

- Prayer – v 42
- Miracles – v 43
- Unity – v 44
- Meeting physical needs – v 45
- Looked forward to their time together (not begrudgingly) – v 46
- Opened their homes – v 46
- Joy; laughter; open; honest; purposeful – v 46
- Worshipping God – v 47
- Favor with each other – v 47
- They grew in number because of the presence of God in their midst

1. Fellowship Builds Faith

- a. This is not only about doing things together but when we talk about the things of the Lord
- b. What He is doing in each of our lives
- c. Encouragement
- d. Christianity is unique in that we depend on one another to help us grow
- e. The time you spend talking about the Lord with someone
 - i. How did you feel afterwards?
 - ii. Weakened or stronger?
- f. Why is this so?
 - i. It builds unity
 1. One of satan's greatest desires is to bring division into a church
 2. The quickest way for that to happen is by keeping the people of God away from one another
 3. Guarding our hearts and, therefore our tongues, is a vital aspect of protecting the unity of the church
 4. **Psalm 133:1** - *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity*
 - ii. It builds accountability
 1. **Prov 27:17** – *as iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another*
 2. Every Christian needs someone in their life who can say and ask them anything without becoming defensive or offended

2. Fellowship Builds Relationship

- a. First rule – building relationships starts with YOU!
 - i. The woman who came late and left early
 - ii. What are you doing to initiate fellowship during our time of greeting in the middle of the service?
- b. Fellowship helps to keep brothers and sisters from sin
 - i. **Heb 3:13** - *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

- ii. satan wants us to isolate ourselves from one another so that he can lead us into deceit
 - iii. **John 3:19** - *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*
 - c. Being with other Christians is necessary to grow in the things of the Lord and in your faith

3. Fellowship Builds the Kingdom

- a. Fellowship is about more than just you and your life
 - i. We must develop and maintain a kingdom attitude
 - ii. We also must gain a world perspective regarding the kingdom
 - iii. A mandate given by Jesus to spread the Gospel
 - iv. You do not need to go overseas to do this
 - b. Fellowship builds the local body
 - i. The single most effective way for new people to come to a church is not through advertising or by the efforts of the pastor
 - ii. It is when someone from the church personally invites them
- Fellowship is about getting together for meals and activities
 - But is more about getting together to encourage, uplift, pray for, and talk about the things of the Lord
 - Fellowship is an important ingredient in the life of the Christian and the life of the church
 - Encourage you to be a part of the fellowship of this church
 - Sunday
 - During the week
 - God will minister through you
 - Participate? – host? – facilitate?