

SERMON STARTERS

Series: ***“WHAT IS THE CHURCH?”***

Message # 1 **“THE CHURCH: FELLOWSHIPERS WORSHIPING TOGETHER”**

Intro:

The most basic definition of the Church is: It is the body of Christ. I Cor. 12:27 states, *“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”* Eph. 5:30 adds, *“For we are members of his body.”* And Col. 1:24 plainly states, *“...His body, which is the church.”*

However, the local, visible Body of Christ can be described in other terms. In the New Testament there are many words that have the same common prefix “fellow.” The list includes the words: fellowship, 1 Cor. 1:9; fellow laborers, Phil. 4:3; fellow disciples, John 11:16; fellow soldiers, Phil 2:25.

These words help us answer the question, “What Is The Church?” With the above words in mind, we will see that a local church is, among other things:

Fellowshippers Worshiping Together
Fellowlaborers Working Together
Fellowdisciples Walking Together
Fellowsoldiers Warring Together

This first message focuses upon **“The Church: Fellowshipers Worshiping Together.”**

A. ENTERING THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

“God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Cor. 1:9)

“Fellowship” means “to have, to hold or to share in common with others.” What is it that Christians have, hold or share in common with other believers? Answer: Faith in *“Jesus Christ our Lord”*. Our belief bonds us together. What do you believe about:

1. The Character of God? *“God is faithful”*. Do you know God?
2. The Call of God? *“..... by whom you were called.”* Have you been called?
3. The Company Of The Lord? *“..... unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.”* a. *“Jesus”* b. *“Christ”* c. *“Lord”*. Are you in Christ’s Company?
4. The church is Christ’s idea – it belongs to Jesus Christ who purchased it with His blood. *“Truly our fellowship is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.”* (1 John 1:3)

B. ENGAGING IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:41)

How do we engage in fellowship? By:

1. Participation.
“they....”
2. Continuation.
“they continued steadfastly”
3. Indoctrination.
“doctrine” = teaching.
4. Commemoration.
“breaking bread”
5. Intercession.
“prayers”

The Lord Jesus Christ is the source and center of all true Christian fellowship. Therefore, fellowship is the corporate expression of new life in Jesus Christ.

It is the **individual** participating in the **corporate** activities of the church.

C. ENJOYING THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

I John 1:3-7 read. (The word “fellowship” occurs 4 times) To enjoy the fellowship:

1. Stay together. V. 3 “one with another”
2. Stay in tune. V. 1,3,5 see word “heard”.
3. Stay in the truth. See “truth” in I , II & III John
4. Stay on the trail. V. 6 & 7 “walk in the light”

D. EXTENDING THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

“.....they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship....” (Gal. 2:9)

Paul and Barnabas went to the Church in Jerusalem and were welcomed. We should extend the blessings and benefits of the Fellowship. How?

1. By Promoting a warm and friendly atmosphere.
2. By personally engaging those who are not in the fellowship.
3. By purposefully exposing the “outsiders” to the “insiders”. Invite them in.
4. By patiently explaining the gospel verbally.
5. By publicly exhibiting the life of one who is in fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

Have you ENTERED the Christian Fellowship? Are you regularly ENGAGING in Christian Fellowship? Are you really ENJOYING Christian Fellowship? Are you actively EXTENDING the Christian Fellowship?

FELLOWSHIP IS A FAMILY MATTER. HOW MUCH DOES THE FAMILY MATTER TO YOU?

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