

Sermon Outline:  
The Priority of Fellowship  
February 22, 2009

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Fellowship – From the Greek *koinonia* =closeness of relationship, a relationship of communion

Hebrews 10:24-25 <sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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I. Fellowship is a priority because God commands believers to practice it.

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Ephesians 5:22 “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord,”

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

1 Corinthians 12:25b that the members may have the same care for one another.

Galatians 6:2 <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:32 <sup>32</sup>Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 5:21 <sup>21</sup>and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Romans 12:10 <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

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Genesis 13:7-9 <sup>7</sup>And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land. <sup>8</sup>So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. <sup>9</sup>"Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left."

Romans 12:10 <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

1 John 5:3 <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

## II. Fellowship was a priority with the early church

- With the original 3,000 on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 43-47 <sup>43</sup>Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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- Later with the 5,000 plus believers

Acts 4:32-34a <sup>32</sup>And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>For there was not a needy person among them.

- The early church was poor

1 Corinthians 1 26-28 <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup>but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup>and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are. (not many who possessed culture, power, birth)

- The early church was persecuted

Acts 4:1-3 <sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, <sup>2</sup>being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.

## III. Fellowship is a priority because it's necessary for spiritual growth

- It's necessary for the spiritual growth of individual believers

Hebrews 3:13 <sup>13</sup>But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

O to Grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.

Romans 15:14 <sup>14</sup>And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

- It's necessary for the spiritual growth of the church

Ephesians 2:19-22 <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, <sup>20</sup>having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:15-16 <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.