

In One Accord:

Part 4

Devoting Ourselves to Fellowship

Acts 2:40-47

Introduction:

I. Our Fellowshiping God

1. Fellowship Reflects an Essential Characteristic of _____.
2. The Ultimate Goal of Christian Fellowship Is To _____.

II. The Essential Nature of Christian Fellowship.

1. Christian fellowship emerges from our love for God to an interest in the welfare of one another resulting in the nourishment of our own soul, which produces loving worship of God. (Whew...!)

“Fellowship is, first, a sharing with our fellow-believers that things that God has made known to us about Himself, in hope that we may thus help them to know Him better and so enrich their fellowship with Him. Fellowship is, secondly, a means of finding strength, refreshment and instruction, for one’s own soul.” J. I. Packer. Quoted by Jerry Bridges in The Crisis of Caring Nav Press 1985 pages 80=81.

2. Christian Fellowship is a _____ of the Impulse to Hidden Solitude.

Through fellowship we put off the old Adam in favor of the self-disclosing, others-focused nature of the new Adam.

“Spiritual fellowship with one another on any level (family, small group, or one on one) involves commitment, honesty, openness and integrity. Wherever these virtues are present, the saints enter into deep and satisfying relationships that promote their spiritual growth.” – Philip Graham Ryken

3. Understand the Association Between _____ and Fellowship.

Rom 12:13

1Peter 4:9

Fellowship is being together, sharing life together, enjoying one another, and an intimacy of association based in our common bond in Christ.

III. Getting Practical.

1. Think Broadly.

2. Think Simply.

3. Take Initiative.

“Perseverance of the saints is a community project. Being together in smaller settings, exhorting one another day in and day out over the phone, in person, face to face, in notes, in e-mails. This is not the icing on the cake! We won’t survive and go to heaven without it.” =
John Piper JBC Winter 2002. P.13