



All Citizens Christian Church Calgary

Bible Study: Thursday April 17th 2014.

Topic: TRUE FELLOWSHIP.

TEXT: Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-37;

INTRODUCTION: The English U.K thesaurus defines fellowship as companionship, comradeship, friendship, partnership etc. From the foregoing therefore, we can define true fellowship is an interactive relationship between two or more personalities (Christians or non-Christians). In the context of this Bible Study, we will be sticking to Christians. In view of the foregoing therefore it could be between believers and believers and believers and God Almighty on the other hand. The environment could be any where. The first step for the growth of any church is true fellowship. Believers are a people who believe in one God and thus have a common God, goal, and destiny. When church service begins to go beyond a gathering of strange bed fellows meeting in the spirit of compromise, then we are beginning to take steps on to true fellowship. Without true fellowship, the first church would never have succeeded. Every one bore the burdens of the other and every one cared about what happened to the other. Life was a competition but complimentary.

The scriptures we read in the texts say a lot about fellowship. Before Jesus left he had thought the disciples the principles and benefit of true fellowship as he often gathered them together or took them out in twos or more to speak to them. During the last supper he took time to meet with them as we can see in John 13. This manner of meeting and discussing was therefore carried forward by the disciples after Jesus left.

The First part of this teaching will be fellowship between brethren and then we talk about true fellowship between God and men at a later time.

1. What is meaning and conditions of Fellowship?

- a) Fellowship means a basic commitment to one another; Rom 12:10, Ecc 4:9-12, Matthew 18: 19-20. 1 Pet 3:8
- b) Fellowship is based on trust: The depth of fellowship will vary according to the depth of commitment and trust we have for God and for one another. Is 49: 15.
- c) Fellowship must be based on agape. Agape is a one-way love, which is love 'in spite of' not 'because of'. Such a commitment is not affected by the other person's behaviour. It is unconditional John 13:34
- d) It must be Christ centred 1 John 1:3, Phil 2:1-2
- e) We must operate in the light 1 John 1:6-7, Matthew 18:15

- f) Fellowship must not be hypocritical: 1 Pet 1:22
- g) No Hidden motive and seek others well-being. Phil 2:3-4
- h) Willingness to display true love. John 15:12-13, James 2:15-16

2. Why must we fellowship?

- a) The Bible wants us to fellowship together Heb 10:25, Psalm 113:1-3
- b) There is strength in unity Deut 32:30 Ecc 4:12 (You can easily backslide)
- c) God presence comes down: Matt: 18: 19-20, Dan 2: 17-18
- d) Edification and inspiration 1 Cor 14:3-4, 26
- e) Makes studying the word of God easier Neh 8:1-4a
- f) Corporate prayers Acts 12:5, 12 (Peter's arrest)
- g) Fellowship Distinguishes the Believer,
- h) Strengthens the believer. Acts 2: 42.
- i) Shields the believer
- j) Identifies the believer
- k) The Christians are respected and feared
- l) Helps to forge a single purpose
- m) Eliminates localization of wealth
- n) It encourages church growth
- o) It is a sign of a true believer

3. How do we fellowship?

Do not always be the receptor in any fellowship but also a giver. (Seek genuine interest in each others well being) Phil 2:3-4.

Our fellowship embraces the need to be open, honest, and truthful with one another. This at times may mean confessing our sins to one another or lovingly covering another's sin. 1 John 1:6-7, Matt 18:15.

No Hypocrisy so much of the world's fellowship is hypocritical. 1 Pet 1:22.

Sacrificial Giving 2 Cor 8:2-3.

4. Where do we fellowship?

In the temple (Church) Acts 2:46-47

At home Acts 2:46,

Anywhere: Matt18:19-20.

5. What are the results of true fellowship?

- a) Fear of God Acts 2:4-34
- b) It creates room for teaching Acts 2:42
- c) Joy Acts 2:46
- d) God's blessing Psalm 133: 3
- e) Favour with all people Acts 2:47
- f) Addition of new believers Acts 2:47
- g) All needs supplied Phil 4:19

- h) We make up for one another 1Cor 16:17
- i) Loads are easier to bear Gal 6: 1-2, Ecc 4: 10
- j) We begin to genuinely begin to seek one another's wellbeing.
- k) Disagreements Acts 15: 36-40, Acts 6: 1
- l) Agreements 2 Tim 4: 11, Acts 6: 2-7
- m) Encouragement Rom 1:11-12
- n) It creates room for miracles. Psalm 133: 1-3
- o) Emergence of leadership: 1 Cor 16:15-16

CONCLUSION: It will be very difficult if not impossible to run the Christian race without true fellowship. This will in turn have some effect on our Christian life and ultimately our Christian race.