

Knowing and Following Christ – Fellowship

What Are the Questions?:

Matthew 12:46-50, John 13:33-35, Acts 2:40-47, and Hebrews 10:23-25

LAUNCH

Today's topic is fellowship. It's a word used often in the bible, but what does it mean? In the Greek, the word fellowship is translated from the word "*koinonia*", which means "the close association between persons, emphasising what is common between them;" We Christians come from all sorts of backgrounds and walks of life. The one thing we all share in common is Jesus Christ!

Read 1 John 1:1-3

1. According to verse 3, why did John want to communicate what he had seen and heard?
2. In addition to having fellowship with other believers, who does John say we can fellowship with?

EXPLORE

In keeping with our theme of knowing and following Christ, let's see what Jesus had to say about fellowship among His followers.

Read Matthew 12:46-50

1. Given what Jesus said, what do you think He wanted to communicate by His response?
2. According to this passage, what was the qualification to be a part of Jesus' family?
3. Are there people in your life who are following Christ that you could call family?

Now read John 13:33-35

1. What command did Jesus give his disciples and what would the results of it be?
2. Based on this passage, what do you think the core element of fellowship should be?

Now let's have a look at what fellowship was like for the early church. Read Acts 2:40-47

1. Read Verse 40 again.
 - a) What does he mean by "corrupt generation"?

- b. How is the world around us corrupt?
 - c. What part can fellowship play in helping us from being corrupted by the world?
2. List the things this passage says the early church demonstrated.
 3. Describe the commitment the early believers had for each other.
 4. Why do you think they had such a high level of commitment?
 5. Read Verse 46-47. What was the end result of this close fellowship?

Let's look now at a verse in Hebrews . Read Hebrews 10:23-25

1. What commandments are given in regards to other believers?
2. According to verse 24, what should the result of genuine fellowship be in each other's lives?
3. Am I a part of fellowship like this where we mutually spur one another on to love and good deeds and encourage one another?

APPLY

1. Since God called me into the awesome privilege of having fellowship with Him, how will I fellowship with God this week? If fellowshiping with God is not a regular practice of mine, what are some steps I can take to have fellowship with God daily?
2. Think about this – Given what I have learned today about fellowship, am I really seeking and making an effort to actively participate in fellowship with other believers? If no, what step can I take this week to pursue fellowship? If yes, how can I encourage others to join me?

For the Leader:

- The intro scripture is there help remind us that fellowship is not just about other believers, but also with God. This is brought out in the application section too. It's all about knowing him. Hopefully this can add to what has been learnt from the previous studies in this series and help solidify the point
- Hopefully by the end of this study, our students are aware of their need to have good Christian fellowship in their lives. If they are a new believer, this could mean going to church. It might also mean they make an effort to come to Studentlife events outside of Action group. As the leader, help them process the last application question well so they can make a good next step in their journey with Christ.

What are the Answers?:

Intro

1 John 1:1-3

1. So that we can have fellowship with him and other believers.
2. We can have fellowship with God

Explore

Matthew 12:46-50

1. Our real family is our spiritual one of those who are following Christ
2. Doing the will of the Father
3. Discuss

John 13:33-35

1. To love one another. Through that, the world would know that we are truly disciples of Christ
2. Love for each other.

Acts 2:40-47

1. The Early Church
 - a. He means that the people around them are slaves to sin and will perish in their sinful ways

- b. The world around us is the same. The sins people in our culture live out might be different from the ones of the people of Israel 2000 years ago, but it's all still sin. Discuss the ways in which our culture tends to act out the sinful nature
- c. We are encouraged by fellow believers to follow Christ rather than the sinful ways of our world.

2. Devoted to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to breaking bread, to prayer, to sharing things in common, to generosity to those in need within the church.
3. They are devoted to Christ, and seem extremely committed to each other as fellow believers
4. Discuss
5. Gladness and sincerity of heart for themselves. Also favour amongst those who don't believe yet, resulting in many people coming to faith in Christ each day.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. To consider how to encourage one another to live lives that follow Christ well, and to not give up meeting together
2. Love and good deeds
3. Discuss

What's the Big Idea?

Our lives as Christians are supposed to be lived out together. We are created for relationship with God, and relationship with other people. Living for Christ can be hard at times. Together we are stronger, and together we will come to understand God more fully.

What's the Problem?

We like our independence. If we don't get to close to others, we don't have to worry about them seeing who we really are. The trouble is, we need others to see who we really are. God does, and he loves us completely. His desire is for us to open our lives to others and not be afraid of what they'll think.

What's Our Response?

We must endeavour to make ourselves known to other believers. Satan is described as a lion looking to devour us. But lions do not attack animals in the middle of a pack. They look for the ones who stray off by themselves. Knowing and following Christ involves choosing to live our faith out with others. We will get hurt and discouraged at times by others in the faith, maybe we could even grow disillusioned with Church. But we must make a choice to seek out Christian fellowship throughout our journey with Christ.