



Part 4: Fellowship

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This sermon is part 4 of The Christian Engine. So far, we have talked about the importance of **Bible**, **Prayer**, and **Worship** – *which become **supercharged** when we are actively witnessing*. Today, we focus on **fellowship** ♣ in the Bible, ♣ here at Bethlehem, and ♣ as part of The Christian Engine.

1. **Fellowship – In the Bible:** Fellowship is ➡ *a close relationship* and ➡ *sharing of something in common*.

a. Fellowship with God:

- i. God the Father: He ♣ made us through His Son, ♣ saved us through His Son, and ♣ is calling all people to return to His family through repentance. Regarding fellowship with God the Father – John wrote: ^{NAU} **1 John 1:6-7** *If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth [that is, our **dark actions** speak louder than our **nice-sounding words**]; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” //* For all who have fellowship with God the Father,

they ✦ trust in Jesus, ✦ have been washed clean by the blood of Jesus, and ✦ honor Him in their lives (Matt. 5:16)!

- ii. God the Son: He ✦ created all things (John 1:3; Col. 1:16), ✦ kept OT history moving toward His promised coming (*as He appeared many times as the Angel of the LORD*), and ✦ did everything to take away the sin of the world. Regarding fellowship with God the Son – Paul wrote: ^{NAU} **1 Corinthians 1:9** “...you were called into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” // Through our God-given faith, we ✦ are in relationship with Him and ✦ will finally be in His glorious presence forevermore!
 - iii. God the Holy Spirit: He is ✦ “the Lord and giver of life” (*Nicene Creed*) – *the One through whom the Father worked to give us faith in Jesus*, and ✦ the One who keeps us trusting in Jesus (Phil. 1:6). Regarding fellowship with God the Holy Spirit – Paul wrote: ^{NAU} **2 Corinthians 13:14** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” // When we are in fellowship, that is, close to the HS, then we are ✦ in tune with His leading (Gal. 5:16) and ✦ walking in His power!
- b. Jesus and His Apostles: As recorded in **Luke 22:7-16**, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His apostles. *Food and fellowship go together!*
- i. The meal ✦ commemorated God freeing the Israelites from Egypt and ✦ looked ahead to Jesus, *the Ultimate Lamb of God!*

- ii. The meal was Jesus' Last Supper, and, *during the meal*, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, *which is the NT Passover meal!*
- c. Fellowship with Other Believers: We have so much in common: ♦ Faith in Jesus, ♦ membership in God's family, and ♦ members of the one body of Christ. What should believers do together? In the early church: ^{NAU} **Acts 2:42** "They were **continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching** [*instruction*] and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** [*the Lord's Supper*] and to prayer." // They were devoted to faithfully doing many important things together. *Let us do the same!*

2. **Fellowship – Here at Bethlehem**: Survey results: 36 of 73

- a. **Mark all the reasons for church fellowship**: 5 options; **26** marked all 5; **10** marked some of the 5.
 - i. Getting acquainted – *let's grow closer!*
 - ii. Giving / Receiving encouragement – *living in this fallen world, we all need inspiration!*
 - iii. "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17 NAU). // As we talk to each other, *we learn and benefit from each other!*
 - iv. Growing closer as the family of God. // Our God family is *our forever family!*
 - v. Discovering and praying for each other's needs. // Ask..., share..., *commit to pray for each other!*
- b. **Which fellowship opportunities do you participate in?**
 - i. Sunday Refreshment Time (10:15) = **23**
 - ii. Advent and Lent Meals (12 & 6) = **22**
 - iii. Easter Breakfast (10:30) = **17**

iv. Ascension Day Meal (6:00) = 18

v. Church Picnic (late summer) = 23

c. **If these were offered, which one(s) would you attend?**

Video-based study of “The Chosen” on some Wednesdays after Easter:

i. Fellowship 10:30-11; Study 11 = 13

ii. Fellowship 6:30-7; Study 7 = 9

Once a month on Saturdays after the 4:00 service:

iii. Good weather: campfire and food = 20

iv. Bad weather: food inside = 15

3. **Fellowship – As Part of The Christian Engine:** When a person is in Christ, he/she will be concerned about the salvation of others – *which will lead to witnessing*. Then, from witnessing, *he/she will act to benefit that person:*
- a. **Bible** – *read to find answers!*
 - b. **Prayer** – *pray for understanding and repentance!*
 - c. **Worship** – *invite to attend and grow!*
 - d. **Fellowship** – *invite to encourage and strengthen!*

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, open our eyes to understand The Christian Engine; then help us to continually (*frequently, regularly*) live ALL 5 PARTS in our lives, so that we ▶grow as Your children, ▶honor You in our lives, and ▶are used by You to extend Your love and truth to others!

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