

02/01/04 – “YOU WERE MADE FOR GOD’S FAMILY” - FELLOWSHIP

Jesus said this, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.”*

There are no orphans or second-class citizens in the Body of Christ... We all have a place & purpose!

“...God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Galatians 4: 5-6

We are brothers & sisters in Christ because we have one Father & are in the family of God - Ephesians 4

God wants us to have true communion - **koinonia**, Greek word for **fellowship**, sharing things in common, participation

In Acts 2:42 the church devoted itself to breaking of bread, the apostle’s teaching, **fellowship** & prayer

Fellowship is more than social – social things happen, **but koinonia is fellowship** in the mystery of Christ

We can be eternally changed in the midst of **fellowship**? **Fellowship** is essential to lead a balanced & productive life in Christ

Our faith is more than believing a creed; it’s about belonging, & being in **fellowship** with Christ & His church

BUILDING BLOCKS OF FELLOWSHIP

Romans 12:9-16 - Verses are about the process of life...love, hate, devotion, brotherly love, preference, honor, diligence, fervent, serving, hopeful, persevering, prayerful, giving, hospitable, blessing, rejoicing, weeping, same mind, humble

AUTHENTICITY

You won’t enjoy your life until you get comfortable in your own skin...being authentic, real & genuine

Many go through life performing, trying to gain approval, acceptance, seeking control & affirmation for wrong reasons

Just be yourself – “Being ourselves” doesn’t give us the right to be obnoxious or rude – We are to edify & prefer one another

The ultimate measure of authenticity is the applied Word of God – *“...able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”* – Hebrews 4:12

COURTESY

Courteous people are bridge builders into fellowship...devoted to one another in brotherly love...Kindhearted

“...to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.” – Titus 3:2

Can walk arm in arm without seeing eye to eye - Disagreeing with you is not ridicule or rejection...Simply disagreement

It is so easy to smash a watch, but so incredibly hard to put back together – It’s like that with relationships

Be diligent to preserve unity – Let yourself be open & honest & reconcile with an attitude of love

MUTUALITY

“For if either of them falls the one will lift up his companion, but woe to the one who falls where there is not another to lift him up.”

You won’t be what God wants you to be without other people...They provide balance & direction to your life, & help identify your calling

We all need encouragement & there are so many ways to do it – Kind words, kind gestures, prayer, practical help, etc.

We are to honor one another - Demonstrating mutual respect – Let us consider how to stir one another to love & good works

Mutual accountability to the Lord & one another - It begins in our heart...without integrity accountability is like reporting to a parole officer

HOSPITALITY

“And 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.” – Acts 2:46

Opening our homes, our hearts, & our resources

UNITY

Unity of purpose – *“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* – 1 Corinthians 1:10

You can have unity without uniformity – Unity of purpose does not have to be unity of method

God doesn’t want everyone to be alike, but He does want us to be unified...**Book of Acts, one place, one accord, one mind, one heart**

Unity is where the power & blessing of the Lord were revealed...Psalm 133 – Behold how good & pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity

“Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself...” – Philippians 2:2-3