

Joy Without Limits :
The Joy of Fellowship
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Text : Acts 2:41-47

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” One of the ways we gain joy is by having fellowship with one another. It would be wise for us to consider what it means to have true fellowship with God and one another

Discussion:

I. The Meaning of Fellowship

Communion – “*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*” **I Corinthians 10:16**

Community – “*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*” **II Corinthians 6:14**

Contributor – “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.*” **II John 10-11**

II. The Misconceptions of Fellowship

You Can Choose Your Brethren – “*And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.*” **Acts 9:26**

You Can Ignore Sin – “*deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump.*” **I Corinthians 5:5, 7**

You Can Hide From Darkness – “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*” **Ephesians 5:11**

You Cannot Have Peace – “*I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.*” **III John 9-12**

III. The Mentality of Fellowship

Serve One Another – “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” **Galatians 5:13**

Pray For One Another – “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” **James 5:16**

Work For One Another – “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” **I Peter 4:9**

Love One Another – “He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” **I John 2:11**

Conclusion: Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! One way to achieve that joy is through fellowship. Our fellowship depends on our relationship to God (**I John 1:5-10**). Are you in fellowship with God? Are you in fellowship with His saints? Give the Lord control of your life!!!