



Christ-Centered Fellowship

CLOVERDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Cloverdale, AL)

Sunday Afternoon Sermon on April 19, 2015

Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: There are several “ships” of the Christian faith. Today we have decided to focus on three of them. We started with “leadership” and then “discipleship. But before we conclude the day I want to emphasize “fellowship.” Why does the Bible talk about fellowship? What is so important about all of us being together? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. God Created Us For Fellowship

- A. God wants us to have fellowship with Him (**Genesis 1-3, Ephesians 1:5, James 1:18**).
- B. God forms us to be a part of His family (**Galatians 3:26-27, I John 3:1-3**).
- C. God intends us to be a community of family (**Ephesians 3:15, I Timothy 3:15**).
- D. God expects us to cement relationships (**Matthew 22:37-40, Galatians 5:6**).
- E. God leads us to ministry and teaching (**Luke 19:10, II Corinthians 5:17-19**).
- F. God requires us to work things out (**Matthew 5:21-22, Matthew 18:15-17**).
- G. God knows that fellowship takes work (**Matthew 18:15-17, Colossians 3:13**).

II. We Should Maintain & Restore Fellowship

- A. Talk to God before talking to the person (**I Thessalonians 5:17, James 4:1-2**).
- B. Always take the initiative (**Matthew 5:23-24, II Corinthians 5:19-20**).
- C. Sympathize with their feelings (**Romans 15:2, Philippians 2:4**).
- D. Confess your part of the problem (**Matthew 7:5, James 5:16**).
- E. Attack the problem, not the person (**Proverbs 15:1, 16:21, Ephesians 4:29**).
- F. Cooperate as much as possible (**Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18**).
- G. Emphasize reconciliation, not resolution (**I Peter 3:11, Matthew 18:15-17**).

III. You Need Fellowship With God’s People

- A. God’s people worship in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**).
- B. God’s people meet on the first day of every week (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1-2**).
- C. God’s people sing and make a joyful noise (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16**).
- D. God’s people pray (**Acts 2:42, I Timothy 2:1-2, I Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16**).
- E. God’s people read, preach, and teach (**Ephesians 4:16, II Timothy 3:16-17**).
- F. God’s people take the Lord’s Supper (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11:20-31**).
- G. God’s people collect an offering (**I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7**).

Conclusion: This is one “ship” that God knows is vital to His people. **Hebrews 10:24-25** says, “*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*” We desperately need Christ-centered leadership fellowship! Will you encourage healthy fellowship? Are you willing to put others before yourself? Are you willing to work together in the kingdom?