

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ancient Words: Favorite Bible Words

Fellowship

Introduction:

1. The early church prided itself on its friendly fellowship.
2. **Acts 2:41-47**
3. Is there anything that we can learn from their fellowship?
4. Are there things that we need to change to be more like them?

Discussion:

I. The Main Branches of Fellowship

- A. Kinship – You are born into one fellowship.
- B. Membership – You can be members of a fellowship.
- C. Companionship – You can be close to those of a fellowship.
- D. Partnership – You can join with those in fellowship.

II. The Meaning of Friendly Fellowship

- A. Communion
I Corinthians 10:16
- B. Community
II Corinthians 6:14
- C. Contributor
II John 10-11

III. The Misconceptions of Friendly Fellowship

- A. You Cannot Extend Fellowship
Acts 9:26
- B. You Cannot Withdraw Fellowship
I Corinthians 5, II Corinthians 6:14
- C. It Includes Possessions
Ephesians 5:11
- D. It Includes the World
I John 1:5-7

IV. The Mentality of Friendly Fellowship

- A. Have Peace With One Another
Mark 9:50
- B. Serve One Another
Galatians 5:13
- C. Pray For One Another
James 5:16
- D. Be Hospitable To One Another
I Peter 4:9
- E. Love One Another
I John 2:11, John 13:34-35

Conclusion:

1. In his discussion on Acts 2:42, J W. McGarvey says:
“For the purpose of being taught by the apostles, they must have assembled together, and this was the occasion for manifesting their *fellowship*, which term expresses their common participation in religious privileges. It has been urged by some writers, that the term *koinonia* should here be rendered *contribution*, instead of *fellowship*, and that it refers to contributions which were regularly made in the public assemblies, for the poor. . . . The radical idea in this term is that of *participation in common*. We have fellowship with God, because we are made *partakers* of the divine nature, as we escape the corruption which is in the world through lust. We have fellowship with the Son, because of the common sympathies which his life and sufferings have established between himself and us; and with the Spirit, because we partake of the strengthening and enlightening influences of his teachings, and because he dwells in us. We have fellowship with one another, because of the mutual participation in each other's affection and good offices. The term is also used in reference to the Lord's supper. “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the *fellowship* of the blood of Christ? The loaf which we break, is it not the *fellowship* of the body of Christ?” We *partake in common* of the benefits of his broken body and shed blood, which are symbolized in the cup and the loaf. . . . From the meaning of the term, as thus exemplified, originates its use in the sense of *contribution*; for in the act of contributing to the necessities of others, we allow them to participate in the blessings which we enjoy.”
2. Fellowship depends on our relationship to God, His Son, His Spirit, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. **I John 1:7-10, 4:20-21**
4. How is your relationship to God?
5. How is your relationship to your brethren?
6. When will decide to take off the plastic smiles and be real with one another?
7. Our fellowship should be a friendly, loving, and hospitable one that is warm and receptive.
8. What are you doing to make this a reality?