

FELLOWSHIPING WITH CHRISTIANS

Key scripture: John 17:23

The Greek words translated “fellowship” in the New Testament mean essentially a partnership to the mutual benefit of those involved. Christian fellowship with each other, then, is the mutually beneficial relationship between Christians, who can’t have the identical relationship with those outside the faith. The mystery and privilege that is Christian fellowship is that it exists because God has enabled it by His grace. Those who believe the gospel are united in the Spirit through Christ to the Father, and that unity is the basis of our fellowship with each other.

We can have friendships and relationships with unbelievers, but true Christian fellowship can only occur within the body of Christ. We are united to one another by common beliefs, purposes and goals. The importance of true Christian fellowship is that it reinforces these things in our mind and helps us to focus on Christ and His desires and goals for us. As iron sharpens iron, in true Christian fellowship Christians sharpen one another's faith and stir one another to exercise that faith in love and good works, all to God’s glory.

Discussion Points

1. What are the benefits of building fellowship with other Christians? *Acts 2: 41-47, Psalm 133:1*
2. What mutual benefits do fellowshiping with Christians provide? *Heb. 10:24-25, Prov. 27:17*
3. How does fellowshiping with other believers help with praying together? *James 5:14-16, Matthew 18:19*
4. How has fellowshiping with other believers benefitted you personally?