

THE FELLOWSHIP OF ONE ANOTHER

Introduction

- 1) **Acts 2:40-42** – those who were saved “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship...”
- 2) What is this “fellowship” they continued in? There was a familiarity and connection between those who were being saved in the body of Christ, the church
- 3) They were NOT together like those attending a ball game or gathered in a theatre
 - a) These are together in one place but not because they desire to know and care for one another
- 4) Our relationship together in Christ and His church is the fellowship of “one another” (Rom. 12:5)

I) LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 Jn. 4:7)

- A) We are to love one another because God loves us (1 Jn. 4:8-12)
- B) Taught from the beginning by Christ (1 Jn. 3:11, 23; Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12, 17)
- C) Even when earthly differences exist, we continue to fellowship one another in Christ

II) SERVE ONE ANOTHER (Gal. 5:13)

- A) This is only possible through love, otherwise bite and devour one another (v. 15)
- B) We must know one another’s needs and willingly submit to one another in serving one another (Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5)
- C) Serving one another necessitates being patient with one another (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13), showing hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9), and bearing with one another (Col. 3:13)

III) EXHORT ONE ANOTHER (Heb. 3:13)

- A) A word of exhortation strengthens and motivates us (Heb. 10:24-25)
- B) Such comfort and encouragement is especially needed in critical and difficult times (1 Thess. 5:11)
- C) We always need to be teaching and admonishing one another to greater knowledge and faithfulness (Col. 3:16)

IV) BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER (Eph. 4:32)

- A) This is vital to forgiving one another and maintaining unity (Col. 3:12-13; Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:1-3)
- B) The opposite of a critical, judgmental attitude that condemns and divides (Lk. 18:9-14)
- C) Being “clothed with humility” helps us treat one another in a godly manner (1 Pet. 5:5)
 - 1) Made their worship acceptable, not divisive (1 Cor. 11:33)

V) PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER (Jas. 5:16)

- A) There is a close relationship that should naturally develop in our fellowship together in Christ – “we are members of one another” (Eph. 4:25; Rom. 12:5)
 - 1) This is our fellowship as members of a body “knit together” in Christ (Eph. 4:15-16)

Conclusion

We now see why David wrote, *“How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”* (Psa. 133:1). It is a good and pleasant relationship that we should be diligent to maintain together in Jesus as His body, the church. This is where we enjoy His spiritual blessings of being children of God and part of the body of the saved. May we be careful never to mix the carnal social activities of this world with our spiritual fellowship and the divine work of the church.