

Begin memorizing 1 John 1:7:

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

Bible Study #8

Fellowship

“Fellowship” is derived from the Greek word *koinonia*, which is most often translated to mean “communication”, “fellowship”, or “communion.” Its’ real meaning is “deep, abiding, close mutual relationship,” or “sharing in partnership.” What is the key to having a friendship that honors God? First, make sure that you are walking in obedience to God. Fellowship is different than “relationship.” If a father asks his son to mow the grass, but instead he goes fishing, things won’t be right when dad arrives home. There will be a barrier between father and son, and you would probably sense it if you were there. Now, the dad and son are still “related,” but their “fellowship” has gone sour—they are not getting along. The Bible has a solution, “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong” (1 John 1:9). If you are not committed to obeying God, then you probably will make friends with others who lack this commitment. Any relationship that does not encourage you to live obediently to God and entices you to sin dishonors God. However, if you are committed to obeying God, you will seek out friends who are also committed to Him. As you walk with those who share the same love for the Lord as you have, you will have a great opportunity to be filled with joy and have greater drive to keep from sinning, and your friendships will honor God.

PRAY before you start! Answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

Who do we have fellowship with?

1. 2 Cor. 13:13
2. 1 John 1:3
3. 1 John 1:7

What is our motivation to fellowship?

4. Romans 8:35-39
5. 1 John 2:3-6

What is the purpose of fellowship? (Why is it important?)

6. Proverbs 27:17
7. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
8. Hebrews 10:24-25
9. Why is it necessary to encourage one another daily? Heb. 3:13

What activities did the early Christians share in?

10. Acts 2:42

11. Col. 3:15-17

According to the following passages, what is the key component to fellowship?

12. John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:18, Gal. 6:10

What are some things we do when we fellowship, or that result from fellowship?

Hebrews. 10:25

James. 5:16

Hebrews 10:24

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

Romans 12:13

Romans 15:1-3

Matt. 28:19-20

Our church desires authenticity in our relationships. It is where Christians can honestly share with each other what is going on in their lives. Sharing involves both giving and receiving, and both are integral parts of Pasco Christian.

In the following passages, identify what we are to share and a way in which we are to share:

1 John 4:11, 21

Galatians 6:2

Galatians 6:6

James 5:16

In Matthew 5:22-24 what does it say that our responsibility is toward someone who you have offended?

What is your responsibility when he has offended you?

Matthew 18:15, 35

The Body of Christ

The Bible describes the relationship of Christians with one another and with Christ in terms of a body.

Who is the head of the body? Why? Colossians 1:18

As believers we are given different responsibilities within this body.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Who gave us our different functions or “parts?”

What is God's desire? Verse 25

What can lead to disharmony in the body? verses 15, 16, 21

Are any of the parts of the body unnecessary? verses 20-22

31. Ephesians 4:2-3 lists some things which will preserve unity in the body, what are they?

Explain why fellowship is important to you

Is there someone in your life who you find it difficult to relate to in love as another member of Christ's body? In light of what you have studied today, is it important to bring harmony into that relationship? How could that happen?

From memory, write out your memory verse.