

FELLOWSHIP

The Beauty of Christianity

Acts 2:42-47

Obomedaire, Jude

Introduction

Christianity is not only about having a personal relationship with God; it is also about being connected with other believers. God designed Christians to worship, encourage, teach, serve, and grow together.

The early church gives us a beautiful example. **Acts 2:42** says: *"...And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."* Their fellowship was one of the things that made the early church strong and attractive.

1. What Is Christian Fellowship?

Christian fellowship means sharing life, faith, love, encouragement, and service with other believers.

It involves:

- 💧 Worshipping together
- 💧 Studying God's Word together
- 💧 Praying together
- 💧 Encouraging one another
- 💧 Helping one another
- 💧 Sharing our joys and difficulties
- 💧 Serving God together

1 John 1:3 teaches that believers have fellowship with one another because they share fellowship with the Father and the Son.

Note

Our relationship with God should influence how we relate to God's people.

2. Fellowship Was Part of the Early Church

Acts 2:44-46 shows that the early Christians spent time together and cared for one another.

They:

- 💧 Meet together
- 💧 Shared what they had
- 💧 Ate together
- 💧 Praised God together
- 💧 Supported one another

Note

Their Christianity was not practiced in isolation. **Acts 2:47** says the Lord added to their number daily.

A loving and united church can make the Christian faith attractive to others.

3. Fellowship Brings Encouragement

Everyone experiences difficult moments. Sometimes a Christian becomes discouraged, weak, or confused.

That is why fellowship matters. **Hebrews 10:24-25** encourages believers not to abandon meeting together, but to encourage one another.

When we fellowship:

- ✓ Someone can encourage us when we are weak.
- ✓ Someone can pray with us.
- ✓ Someone can remind us of God's promises.
- ✓ We can encourage others who are struggling.

Proverbs 27:17:

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

4. Fellowship Demonstrates Christian Love

Jesus said:

John 13:34-35 — His disciples should love one another, and this love would help others recognize them as His disciples.

Christian fellowship should therefore be characterized by:

- ✓ Love
- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Forgiveness
- ✓ Patience
- ✓ Humility
- ✓ Understanding

Romans 12:10 teaches believers to be devoted to one another in love and to honor one another.

Important question:

Can people see Christ in the way we treat other Christians?

5. Fellowship Helps Us Carry One Another's Burdens

Galatians 6:2 says:

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Fellowship means that we don't always have to face life's challenges alone.

When one person is struggling, the church should not say, *"That is your problem."*

Instead, we should ask: *"How can I help?"*

We can help through:

- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Encouragement
- ✓ Practical assistance
- ✓ Biblical counsel
- ✓ Spending time with someone who feels alone

6. Fellowship Promotes Spiritual Growth

We grow when we learn from God's Word and interact with mature Christians.

Colossians 3:16 teaches Christians to teach and admonish one another through God's Word.

Fellowship gives us opportunities to:

- ✓ Learn from one another
- ✓ Correct one another lovingly
- ✓ Share testimonies

- ✓ Discuss God's Word
- ✓ Develop stronger faith

Remember:

Isolation can make spiritual struggles heavier, but godly fellowship can provide strength and encouragement.

7. Fellowship Requires Unity

Fellowship cannot flourish where there is constant division.

Ephesians 4:2-3 calls Christians to humility, gentleness, patience, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

The church will have people with different:

- ✓ Personalities
- ✓ Backgrounds
- ✓ Opinions
- ✓ Gifts
- ✓ Experiences

But we have one Lord, one faith, and one body (**Ephesians 4:4-6**). Unity does not mean that everyone is identical. It means that we are committed to Christ and to one another despite our differences.

8. Fellowship Involves Sharing and Service

Christian fellowship is more than sitting beside someone during worship.

1 Peter 4:10 teaches that Christians should use their gifts to serve one another.

Ask yourself:

- ✓ What gift has God given me?

- ✓ How can I use it to help the church?
- ✓ Who needs encouragement from me?
- ✓ Who can I serve this week?

Key point:

Fellowship becomes beautiful when every member contributes.

What Can Destroy Fellowship?

Some things that can damage fellowship include:

- ✓ Pride — **Philippians 2:3**
- ✓ Low self esteem
- ✓ Gossip — **Proverbs 16:28**
- ✓ Unforgiveness — **Ephesians 4:31-32**
- ✓ Jealousy — **James 3:16**
- ✓ Division — **1 Corinthians 1:10**
- ✓ Selfishness — **Philippians 2:4**
- ✓ Neglecting Christian gatherings — **Hebrews 10:25**

We should constantly examine our hearts and ask whether our behavior is building up or tearing down the fellowship.

9. Christ Is the Center of Our Fellowship

Christian fellowship is not simply friendship.

We can have friendships without Christ, but Christian fellowship is centered on Christ.

Matthew 18:20 reminds us of Christ's presence when believers gather in His name.

Our fellowship should ultimately help us:

- ✓ Know Christ better
- ✓ Become more like Christ

- ✓ Serve Christ
- ✓ Encourage others to remain faithful to Christ
- *Practical Ways to Improve Fellowship in the Church*

As individuals:

Greet people warmly.

💧 Make time for other believers.

💧 make a new friend every Sunday

💧 Encourage someone regularly.

- 💧 Pray with and for others.
- 💧 Forgive quickly.
- 💧 Avoid gossip.
- 💧 Be willing to help.
- 💧 Participate in church activities.
- 💧 Look out for people who are absent or struggling.
- 💧 Make newcomers feel welcome.

Conclusion

"If everyone in the church treated fellowship the way I do, would our church become stronger or weaker?"