

THE POWER OF FELLOWSHIP

1 John 1:3, Romans 12:4-5

- *"We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."* (1 John 1:3)
- **In *The Power Principle* Emphasis we're focused on becoming stronger Christians as we learn and apply life-changing principles to our lives.**
- *"God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 1:5)
- **When we become followers of Jesus God places us into His family.**
- *"Those who love God must also love their fellow believers."* (1 John 4:21)
- **The Lord wants us to learn to love our "spiritual family" because: 1) He wants us to become like Him, 2) He wants His children to get along, and 3) we will spend eternity together in heaven.**
- *"Respect everyone, and love the family of believers."* (1 Peter 2:17)
- **Engaging in Fellowship is where we participate in loving and sharing life with God's family.**
- *"I'm writing . . . so you'll know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church."* (1 Timothy 3:14-15 NCV)
- ***In what ways are we to experience "fellowship" in the family of God?***

The Lord Wants Us To:

UNITE WITH A CHURCH FAMILY

- *"You are members of God's very own family . . . and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (*Ephesians 2:19)
- **The Christian life is not just a matter of believing – it's also a matter of belonging.**

- *"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and <u>we all belong to each other</u>."* (Romans 12:4-5)
- **The way to become a member of the Celebration Family is by receiving Jesus as Savior, taking the step of "baptism by immersion", attending our *First Steps* class, and signing our Membership agreement.**
- **The symbol that shows that we belong to the "family of God" is Baptism.**
- *"Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."* (Romans 6:3-4)

The Lord Wants Us To:

SHARE LIFE WITH OTHER <u>CHRISTIANS</u>

- *"All the believers met together . . . and shared everything they had."* (Acts 2:44)
- **The reason why many people are lonely is because they're not willing to put out the time it takes to build relationships.**
- **One of the fundamental lessons every child has to learn is to "learn to share."**
- **We need to learn how to share our *Experiences* with others.**
    - *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.:* (Proverbs 27:17)
- **We need to learn how to share our *Problems* with others.**
    - *"Share each other's troubles and problems."* (Galatians 6:2)
- **We need to learn how to share our *Abilities* with others.**
    - *"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."* (1 Corinthians 12:7)
    - **Each of us has been given an ability that corresponds with a unique purpose, to be fulfilled as a member of God's church.**
    - *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)
- ***Life Groups* are a good place to share our experiences, problems and abilities with others.**
- *"<u>Let us not neglect our meeting together</u>, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (Hebrews 10:25)

The Lord Wants Us To:

ENGAGE IN MINISTRY WITH <u>OTHERS</u>

- **58 times in the New Testament the Lord says that we're to "help" one another.**

- *"He (God) makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."* (Ephesians 4:16)
- **When we cooperate with other believers we get far more accomplished than we can do on our own.**
- Jesus - *"The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me.' . . . And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!'"* (Matthew 25:34-40)
- ***Suggestion* - This week look for a practical need in your *Life Group* that you can meet.**

The Lord Wants Us To:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER LIKE A HEALTHY <u>FAMIL</u>Y

- *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper, and to prayer."* (Acts 2:42)
- ***"**Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."* (Romans 12:10)
- *"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."* (1 John 3:16)

- **Life is about "loving God" and "loving each other" (Matthew 22:37-39).**
- **Life is not about accomplishments – it's about relationships.**
- Jesus - *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* (John 13:35)
- **At Celebration we always want to be known for our love for God and love for one another.**
- *"You are all children of God <u>through faith in Christ Jesus.</u>"* (Galatians 3:26)
- ***What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message?***