

Fabulous Fellowship

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1John 1:7 (NKJV)

The principle of fellowship is described perfectly in this verse. It starts with us, individually, having a relationship with the Living God and walking in His light- as He has taught us to walk by His words, actions and by the Holy Spirit's guidance. As we walk in this light, our sin is covered by His blood- meaning we experience forgiveness and wholeness in His presence. If we walk outside of the light, we miss the fellowship with our Savior and tend to break off fellowship with our sisters and brothers because we are walking in darkness and not following the light. But we stay in fellowship if we are all in the light walking together with Jesus. Our walk in this light is attractive both to other believers and to non-believers as well (like Moto at Walmart).

II. **KOINONIA** (koy-nohn-ee-ah)

- "*Koinonia* receives the grace of God with a grateful heart and lets the resources of God flow through your life into the rest of God's family. The essence of the Church is found in the word *koinonia*." (*A God-Centered Church*, Henry and Melvin Blackaby)
- Ephesians 2
- What is *koinonia* ?



III. EXPERIENCING LIFE TOGETHER

- *Life is meant to be shared. God intends for us to experience life together. The Bible calls this shared experience fellowship. Today, however, the word has lost most of its biblical meaning. 'Fellowship' now usually refers to casual conversation, socializing, food and fun.*

Real fellowship is so much more than just showing up at services, it is experiencing life together. It includes unselfish loving, honest sharing, practical serving, sacrificial giving, sympathetic comforting and all the other 'one another' commands found in the New Testament.

In real fellowship, people experience authenticity, mutuality, sympathy and mercy. (The Purpose-Driven Life- chapter 18, Rick Warren)

- **Scripture passages to examine in small groups:**

1. Philippians 2:1-4
2. Colossians 3:12-17
3. Hebrews 10:19-25
4. 1 John 1:1-7

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does this passage illustrate "fellowship" (*koinonia*) or "experiencing life together?"

2. What attracts you to a Christian group like PWOC?



3. What might make you stay away?

4. How can you bring *koinonia* to life in your PWOC, your chapel, your church, your leadership team or your Bible study group?

5. How do we make our gatherings attractive to our community?

APPLY IT TO LIFE:

- In what area is God calling you to experience *koinonia*? in your relationship with Him? with an individual? in your Bible study? on a leadership team? Ask Him to reveal a specific person, group or setting to you.

- Record here at least one thing you can do this week to implement the concept of biblical fellowship, *koinonia*, in your own life:



Resources:

- *Leadership Secrets of Jesus*- Mike Murdock
- *Just Walk Across the Room*- Bill Hybels
- *A God-Centered Church*- Henry and Melvin Blackaby
- *Finish the Mission*- John Piper and David Mathis
- *BASIC-We are Church* (video series)- Francis Chan
- *The Purpose-Driven Life*- Rick Warren

More Scripture to explore:

- John 17:20-23
- Acts 2: 42-47
- Romans 1:12
- Galatians 6:2
- I Thessalonians 1:2-10; 2:8; 5:11
- I Peter 1:22-23
- I John 4:7-16

