Fellowship: Caring for One Another

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I. Introduction.
   A. The Bible teaches us to care for each other and to be dependent upon one another. (Ephesians 5:21; James 5:16; Romans 1:11-12)
   B. Christians often overlook caring for one another. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
   C. There are four reasons to carry out caring for one another. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

II. A good return for your work.
   A. We learn from each other. (Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians 5:17)
   B. Although all of us need each other to be sharpened, we have fragile self-estees. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
   C. We sharpen one another by speaking the Word of God to one another in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

III. Help when one falls (to encourage). (Hebrews 10:24-25)
   A. To encourage is to fortify a person in a time of adversity. (Hebrews 10:35-36; 12:4-5)
   B. Encouragement is to give emotional and spiritual backbone. (Hebrews 10:24)
   C. The body of Christ needs encouragement in light of disappointment and loss. (Psalm 142:4)

IV. Warmth (to stimulate). (Hebrews 10:24)
   A. Briquettes must be gathered to stay warm.
   B. We must give careful thought about how to stimulate one another to accomplish our Christian duties. (Hebrews 13:1-2; 10:24)

V. Defense.
   A. We can engage in mutual defense through prayer and open accountability. (James 5:16)

VI. Conclusion.
Application questions:

1. What are some wrong ways Christians can do fellowship?
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2. How is our fellowship with God the foundation and objective of our fellowship with people? Explain.
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3. What are some creative ways you can encourage some people in your circles this week? Explain.
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