

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-esteems.
- 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.
- B. Encouragement is to give emotional and spiritual backbone. (Hebrews 10:35-36; 12:4-5)
- 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?

2. How is our fellowship with God the foundation and objective of our fellowship with people? Explain.

3. What are some creative ways you can encourage some people in your circles this week? Explain.
