

True Fellowship- Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. As a review, fellowship in Greek (koinonia) has two principal meanings: “to share together” and “to share with one another.”

B. We will be focusing on fellowship as relationship.

C. We are saved as individuals, but God immediately incorporates all of us into His body. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

II. Fellowship is relationship because “related” means “connected by a common origin.”

A. We are all members of Christ’s body- this is spiritually organic, life-giving relationship. “Koinonia” expresses that relationship.

1. This fellowship is an objective truth, not an experiential truth.

2. Since we are in objective fellowship with other believers, we should also be in experiential fellowship with other believers. This belonging to one another should be expressed in mutual caring for each other. (Romans 12:4-5, 10, 13, 15-16)

B. There are several practical ways that this mutual belonging works itself out.

1. We respond to moral failure in concern for one another instead of criticism. (1 Corinthians 12:25; Romans 12:5)

2. We honor one another instead of competing, envying or condemning. (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 12:26)

a) Individualism competes, but belonging rejoices in another’s blessing.

b) Belonging to each other impacts the way we discuss points of disagreement or confront each other over areas of sin. The objective of these discussions or confrontations is restoring experiential fellowship. (Revelation 3:14-20ff)

3. We pray for each other differently when we belong to each other. The growth of the whole body becomes essential, not just the growth of “me and mine.”(Ephesians 4:16)

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to belong to one another as Christians?

2. How does individualism detract from an attitude of belonging?

3. What are some practical ways that you can express an attitude of belonging in your relationship with other Christians? What does practicing belonging look like in your life?
