Foundations Of Fellowship – Part 1

Tony Mauck · 2 Corinthians 6:14–18

INTRODUCTION

- The foundation is very critical. And in spiritual things, the foundation from which we start is so very important.
- Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. Psalm 127 and verse 1.
- There are so many today who are careless in their approach to the Word of God, and thus they draw improper conclusions about what the Bible teaches.

1 Fellowship Is Something Shared Between Parties

2 Corinthians 6:14; Galatians 2:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9

- It is the word koinonia that's used 19 times in the New Testament that is translated actually in several different ways.
- Do not be bound together with unbelievers. … for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness.
- Fellowship is something that is shared between parties. There's something in common that links them together. It's the idea of being on a team.
- And they gave them the right hand of fellowship. That means approval. That means we're all on the same team.
- God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 God Has Given Us Sufficient Information

2 Timothy 2:15

- Why didn't he just spell it out? Well, fact is he did. He has given us sufficient information to make the proper determinations about the team.
- Our trust in God, our devotion to him, our confidence in his word, our honesty, our humility, our supreme motive of love.
- He wants us to be diligent and to do the work to come to the proper decisions.

3 Does It Matter Whom We Fellowship?

2 John 1:9–11; Romans 16:17–18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6

- Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, that person does not have God.
- Do not receive him into your house and do not give him a greeting. For the one who gives him a greeting … participates in his evil deed.

- Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned. And turn away from them.
- Jesus' motives were the concern for the soul's salvation of people.
- If we don't make these determinations about fellowship, what happens? We might just allow one who teaches error and falsehood to think everything is fine.

4 Do Not Confuse Membership in the Lord's Church

2 Timothy 2:19

- We must not confuse membership in the Lord's church with joining a group of believers.
- When a person is baptized into Christ, the Lord does what? He adds him to the body or to the church.
- But local church fellowship has to do with our determinations and yours. Now, the Lord's knowledge may be different than ours.
- Fellowship is not the idea of who can I exclude. It's who can I include?
- The Lord knows those that are his, and let everyone who names the name of Christ abstain from wickedness.

5 God's Will That Members Band Together

1 Corinthians 12; Acts 9; 1 Timothy 5:24

- It's God's will that members of His church band together to perform religious acts of worship and work in His name.
- This necessitates the ability to identify who is a member and who isn't.
- Thus, local church fellowship is not an informal collection or gathering of people or everyone who is present on the Lord's day.
- Local fellowship can only be extended to those who, from all outward appearances, are God's people and disciples of Jesus Christ.
- And sometimes those things are not easy because we don't have the knowledge God does. His knowledge is perfect.

THE CHALLENGE

Here's the real question for everyone here today. Are you in Christ?

MY NOTES