Foundations Of Fellowship – Part 2

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INTRODUCTION

- The word koinonia, used some 19 times in the New Testament, is translated fellowship, contribution, participation, sharing, and associated words that are translated common partakers and partners.
- We must not confuse membership in the Lord's church with joining a group of believers.

1 Knowledge and Growth of Each Individual

2 Peter 1:5–8; Hebrews 5:12–14

- Within a local church, you have varying degrees of spiritual growth and maturity.
- These qualities we must possess, or we are unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Solid food is for the mature. Who, because of practice, have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- Those who are more mature are going to want to stand away from that line of transgression.

2 Faith Versus Liberty

Romans 14:5; Romans 14:23; Galatians 5:19–21

- Not every issue must be agreed upon by every member.
- The nature of revelation about any given subject will determine the necessity of agreement.
- One man regards one day above another. Another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.
- If you're doing something that another brother can't do, don't cause him to stumble.
- We must differentiate then between matters of biblical clarity, revealed truth, and the matters of judgment and conscience.

3 Actions of a Group Versus Individual Belief and Practice

- I can have fellowship with someone who believes it's okay to do a certain thing. Well, I may not believe it's okay. As long as they don't force me to do it.
- If we're using the treasury in a way that I don't believe is authorized, I can't contribute or I would be partaking in that practice that I believe to be unauthorized.
- You see, what we do corporately versus individual belief and practice.

4 False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1–2

- False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies.
- They have bad motives and a bad message that leads people to do things and believe things that will cause them to be lost. That is a false teacher.
- The babe in Christ is going to come to some conclusions that are not so precise.
- When somebody says something you're a little uncertain about what they say, you ask them, did you say? Or did you mean this? What did you mean by that?

5 Time Needed to Iron Out Differences

Revelation 2:20–21

- There's time that's needed to iron out differences that arise.
- And I gave her time to repent.
- If Jesus is granting time for someone like this to repent, then we certainly need to grant time and be patient with people with whom we disagree.

6 What Our Fellowship Is About and Fellowship Function

1 Corinthians 12:26; Hebrews 10:24; Matthew 18:15

- Loving God, loving one another fervently, and loving the world as God loved the world.
- Fellowship in the local church means that you have a responsibility to others in the group.
- He wanted us to stir one another to love and good deeds.
- If you have a problem with a brother or sister, you need to go to them and talk to them.
- Fellowship function requires work and sacrifice and love.

THE CHALLENGE

Work it out. Patiently, humbly with each other.

MY NOTES