

“Foundations of the New Testament Church”

Week #6: “Fellowship”

Faith Bible Church

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1 John 1:1-7 (New American Standard)

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life — **2** and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — **3** what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. **5** And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 2:41-47 (New American Standard)

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **42** And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Philippians 2:1-8 (New American Standard)

1 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in

the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

In addition to their theology, the New Testament Church displayed another unique quality in the first century world... “fellowship”. Two Greek word families are used in the New Testament to describe “fellowship”- “koinonia” and “metoche”. From the meanings of these words, and various New Testament scriptures, we can see that “fellowship” includes the following characteristics:

I. personal and involved

II. mutual care and provision

III. singleness of purpose

IV. both human and divine

V. both open and exclusive