



Thursday, October 1, 2026

Foundations for the Believer to Live the Spiritual Life.

The Transformed Life.

7. The Devotional Life; Being truly devoted to our Triune God, (continued).

b. “Individuals” and “Collectives” to live the Devotional Life.

2) **The Collectives**, (*continued*): Things we should be doing consistently if not weekly with other believers.

Acts 2:42, “They were continually devoting themselves to: 1) the apostles’ teaching, 2) and to fellowship, 3) to the breaking of bread, 4) and to prayer.”

The Doctrine of Fellowship - Sharing Life Together in Christ, (*continued*).

12. Fellowship Requires the “One Another” Life.

The NT contains numerous commands involving believers’ relationships with “one another.” That phrase is used over 90 times in the NT. Therefore, we are commanded to actively participate in our fellowship with other believers.

1 John 1:7, “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.”

Regarding our fellow believers, we are commanded to:

“Love one another,” **John 13:34–35**.

“Encourage one another,” **1 Thes 5:11**.

“Bear one another's burdens,” **Gal 6:2**.

“Serve one another,” **Gal 5:13**.

“Accept one another,” **Rom 15:7**.

“Be devoted to one another,” **Rom 12:10**.

“Submit to one another,” **Eph 5:21**.

“Forgive one another,” **Eph 4:32**.

“Teach one another,” **Col 3:16**.

“Admonish one another,” **Col 3:16**.

“Pray for one another,” **James 5:16**.

“Encourage one another,” **Heb 10:25**.

These commands demonstrate a crucial point regarding the spiritual life: Christian living cannot be practiced in isolation, because you cannot meaningfully:

- encourage “one another” by yourself.
- serve “one another” by yourself.
- forgive “one another” by yourself.
- bear “one another’s burdens” by yourself.
- pray “for one another” by yourself.

The one-another life requires other believers.

13. The Danger of the “Solitary Saint.”

The NT gives us no model of the Christian as a permanently isolated individual. The believer is described as:

- A member of the body, **1 Cor 12:27**.
- A member of God's household, **Eph 2:19**.
- Part of a spiritual house, **1 Peter 2:5**.
- Part of God's building, **Eph 2:21–22**.
- One of many members, **Rom 12:4–5**.

The Christian life contains a profound paradox: Christianity is personal, but it is not private. You personally believe. You personally trust Christ. You personally walk by faith. But you do so as part of a people.

14. We are not to have this type of intimate Fellowship with unbelievers, 1 Cor 10:20; 2 Cor 6:14; Eph 5:11, cf. Psalms 94:20; 2 John 1:11.

2 Cor 6:14, “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship (*KOINONIA*) has light with darkness?”

Psalms 94:20 (KJV), “Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with you, which frames mischief by a law?” (*i.e., one which devises mischief by decree?*)

Eph 5:11 (NASB), “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.”

Eph 5:11 (NKJV) “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.”

2 John 1:9-11, “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; ¹¹For the one who gives him a greeting participates (*the Verb KOINONEO, “shares, partakes in, participates, fellowships”*) in his evil deeds.”

2 John 1:11 (Young's Literal Translations, YLT), “For he who is saying to him, ‘Hail,’ hath fellowship with his evil works.”

1 Cor 10:20 (NASB), “No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.”

1 Cor 10:20 (NKJV), “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”

15. Fellowship Provides Accountability and Encouragement.

Isolation can make spiritual discouragement worse. But fellowship provides people who can say, “Keep going,” “Let me pray for you,” “Remember what Scripture says,” “You don't have to walk through this alone,” etc.

1 Thes 5:11, “Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up...”

Heb 3:13, “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,””

The Christian community becomes one of God's means of encouragement.

16. Fellowship Requires Love.

Jesus gave the church a distinctive characteristic: **John 13:34-35, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another...”** ³⁵**By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

This is having AGAPE love for your fellow believers, which is an impersonal, unconditional type of love. It is love based on what is inside of you, (God and His Word in application). It is not based on the other person. We are commanded to have this type of love in **Gal 5:14; 1 Thes 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7.**

Therefore:

Christian fellowship is not simply: being around Christians.

Christian fellowship is: loving Christians impersonally and unconditionally.

We can attend the same church and remain relationally distant. Biblical fellowship moves us toward one another.

17. Fellowship Requires Humility.

Fellowship becomes difficult when everyone insists: “My way.”

Phil 2:3-4, gives the attitude necessary for healthy Christian relationships: **“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”**

Fellowship requires us to move from: **“What do I get?”**

To: **“How can I bless others?”**

18. Fellowship Includes Hospitality.

Rom 12:13 says: **“contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”**

Hospitality is one practical expression of fellowship. It can be as simple as:

- Inviting someone to your home.
- Sharing a meal.
- Meeting someone for coffee.
- Welcoming someone new.
- Sitting with someone who is alone.
- Providing transportation.
- Opening your home to a small group.

Hospitality communicates: **“There is room for you in my life.”**

19. Fellowship is not the same as Agreeing about Everything.

Christian fellowship does not require believers to have identical personalities, preferences, backgrounds, opinions, gifts, ministries, etc. The body of Christ has many members with many differences amongst them.

Rom 12:4-5, **“For just as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ...”**

Unity does not mean uniformity. Biblical fellowship means: different people sharing a common life in Christ.