

## *Fellowship & Church Attendance*

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Reading: **Psalm 84**

### ***Fellowship:***

- Fellowship is something that only believers can engage in.

**1 John 1:3** “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

- Jesus is our common denominator.

**1 Corinthians 1:9** “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**2 Corinthians 13:14** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

**1 John 1:7** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

**Amos 3:3** “How can two walk together unless they be agreed?”

**Psalm 119:63** “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.”

- It matters who we have fellowship with:
- Better narcotics cop, hang with the older narcs; want to be a better carpenter...

**Proverbs 13:20** “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

- Hang out with people that are profane, you will become a profane person. Hang out with heroin addicts, you will become a heroin addict.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Be not deceived: evil communications / company corrupt good manners / habits.”

- There is a responsibility to have or be in fellowship:

**Galatians 6:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Love)

We are called to be our brother’s and sister’s keeper.

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## **Church Attendance:**

### **Litmus / standard for the function or operation of the church:**

- 1. Did Jesus teach about it?**
- 2. Was it practiced by the early church, the church of acts?**
- 3. Did Paul address it?**

**Acts 2:42-47** “<sup>42</sup>And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup>And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all that believed were together, and had all things common; <sup>45</sup>and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. <sup>46</sup>And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

V: 42 “Fellowship” (G2842) koinonia, partnership, participation, or (social) intercourse, or communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

V: 47 “Church” – appears 77 times in the NT; first when Jesus says in Matthew 16:18 that He will build His church.

- Church (G-1577) ekklesia, a calling out, called out ones, a religious congregation, saints on earth or in heaven or both, assembly, church.

**Matthew 18:20** “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”

- That is exactly where God wants to be, in the midst of His people.

**Exodus 29:45-46** “<sup>45</sup>And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. <sup>46</sup>And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.”

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- Being in fellowship changes our perspective on life:

**Psalms 73:2-19** “<sup>17</sup>Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.”

**Nehemiah 8:5-8** “<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up: <sup>6</sup>And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan,

Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. <sup>8</sup>So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”

- We should all come away from our collective church experience in some way understanding the word of God a little better – and loving Jesus all the more.

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- Why Sunday?      Why not?

**Matthew 28:1**      “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.”

**Acts 20:7**      “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**      “<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. <sup>2</sup>Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.”

- Even though the church began to gather together on Sundays to worship on a regular basis, we are not limited to Sundays – every day is the Sabbath, every day is a good day to worship God.

**Colossians 2:16-17**      “<sup>16</sup>Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: <sup>17</sup>which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

- Israel – Messianic assemblies gather on Saturday, the Sabbath – because that is when the national businesses take their week end or day off.

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- Even though there are different parts of the church it is intended to be together and to function as one body:

**Ephesians 4:3-6**      “<sup>3</sup>Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>One Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

**Romans 12:4-8**      “<sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup>So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”

**Ephesians 2:19-22** “<sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup>and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; <sup>21</sup>in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy

temple in the Lord: <sup>22</sup>In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

**1 Peter 2:5** “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

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**Hebrews 10:24-25** <sup>24</sup>And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup>Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

- The emphasis in this exhortation isn't on what we receive from coming to church, but it is on what we ourselves have to offer – encouraging one another as the day of Christ's return approaches.

**Isaiah 58:13-14** <sup>13</sup>If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: <sup>14</sup>Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

**Psalms 37:4** “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

**Joshua 4** 12 stones stacked together made 1 monument.

**John 13:35** “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

- Come together and let us love one another, something that cannot be done when we are isolated or by ourselves.

**John 17:21-23** <sup>21</sup>That they all may be one; as thou Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. <sup>22</sup>And the glory which thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are One: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.”

**Psalms 133:1** “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

**Psalms 27:4** “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”