

## The Spiritual Discipline of Fellowship.

One of the great themes of scripture is the theme of being one with Christ. Entwined in this theme is the concept of being one with each other as well. Our current Australian culture generally has a bent towards individuality. This causes us to be more self-orientated than community orientated. However our faith in Jesus brings us into fellowship with other believers. *We **are** one!*

In [Acts 2:42](#) we read that one of the four things the early church devoted itself to was "fellowship." They just didn't have fellowship; they devoted themselves to it. This means that fellowship was a priority and one of the objectives for gathering together. They made fellowship a priority.

*We cannot serve Christ in permanent isolation. Of course, we need times of solitude and silence and isolation from others, but that is only part of a healthy spiritual life. In the life of faith, there is always this dynamic motion from isolation to community. It never goes the other way. We move back into isolation, but it is only so that we can move deeper into community. We go into solitude so we can better serve when we return to the group. God made us for community. The life of faith is not an individual affair. Yes, each of us has our unique life of faith, but it cannot exist separate from the community of faith.*

**We need each other.**

[http://www.watersedge.tv/disciplines\\_fellowship\\_confession.htm](http://www.watersedge.tv/disciplines_fellowship_confession.htm)

### Scriptures:

[Mark 12:33](#) "To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

[John 13:34-35](#) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

[Acts 2:42](#) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

[Romans 12:10](#) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

[1 John 1:7](#) But if we walk in the light, as is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

[Hebrews 10:25](#) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### What is fellowship?

#### Fellowship is not:

- Attending Sunday meetings
- Having a pot luck dinner.
- Having morning tea after a meeting.
- Saying hello to someone at church.

Fellowship is deeper than a casual acquaintance or sharing a cup of tea with someone. It has the power to change your life and the lives of those you fellowship with.

#### Fellowship is:

- A spiritual act.
- Giving relationally and spiritually to others.
- Up close and personal moments that build powerfully into the lives of those around you.
- Connection, relationship, companionship, partnership.
- Prayer, encouragement and comfort spiritually

## **How do I enter into the spiritual discipline of fellowship?**

1. Make a decision to purposefully enter into fellowship with someone in the church.
2. Ask the Lord how you can spiritually engage in a manner that will bring life to that person.
3. Show initiative and make the connection.
4. Look at the scriptures below and act one of them out in a deliberate spiritual desire for fellowship.

*Live in harmony with one another ([Romans 12:16](#))*

*Love one another ([Romans 13:8](#))*

*Accept one another ([Romans 15:7](#))*

*Instruct one another ([Romans 15:14](#))*

*Greet one another ([Romans 16:16](#))*

*Serve one another ([Galatians 5:13](#))*

*Be kind and compassionate to one another ([Ephesians 4:32](#))*

*Speak to one another ([Ephesians 5:19](#))*

*Admonish one another ([Colossians 3:16](#))*

*Encourage one another ([Hebrews 3:13](#))*

*Spur one another on ([Hebrews 10:24](#))*

*Offer hospitality to one another ([1 Peter 4:9](#))*

*<http://theresurgence.com/2008/12/02/spiritual-disciplines-solitude-fellowship-part-2>*