

Foundations — My Life in Christ's Christ — Unit 2

MLICC 2.2

FELLOWSHIP

- I. **Introduction:** Personal relationship with other Christians or fellowship is a vital part of healthy spiritual development. At the core fellowship is being joined together with someone in the Lord in a relationship that transcends external circumstances. Life-giving fellowship happens in the home, on the job, at school, in the market place, or in the church. Wherever you meet with people you can have Christ-centered companionship.
 - a. **Definition:** Fellowship is participation, social intercourse, benefaction or sharing with others.
 - b. **Bible words** used to express the nature and function of Christian fellowship are communion, sharing, distribution, contribution, communication, and fellowship.
 - c. **Key Text: Ephesians 4:1-6** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **beseech** you to **walk** worthy of the **calling** with which you were called, 2 with all **lowliness** and **gentleness**, with **longsuffering**, bearing with **one another** in love, 3 endeavoring to **keep the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
 - i. I beseech you...
 - ii. Walk worthy of the Calling...
 - iii. With all lowliness and gentleness...
 - iv. Longsuffering, bearing with one another...
 - v. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit...
 - vi. One hope ...
- II. **Fellowship:** Necessary for healthy Christian living – Relationships with friends and family in the faith, or the “**One Another**” **lifestyle**, will have an ongoing effect on the fruitfulness and blessing in the life of the Christian
 - a. **Healthy** peer relationships – there is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian. Jesus sought His disciples to pray with Him in His our of greatest trial, and we are meant to go through our highs and lows with other like minded individuals.
 - i. **John 13:34** A new **commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**; as I have loved you, that you also **love one**

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FELLOWSHIP

another. / John 15:17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

- ii. **Rom 12:4-5** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
 - iii. **Rom 12:10-13** Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
 - iv. **Rom 15:14** Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to **admonish one another**
 - v. **Eph 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be **kind to one another**, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you.
 - vi. **Eph 5:18-21** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit**, 19 **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 **submitting to one another** in the fear of God.
 - vii. What stands out to you in the above mentioned "one another" verses?
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- b. **Friendship** is the true spirit of fellowship!
 - i. **Prov 17:17** A friend **loves at all times**, and a brother is born for adversity.
 - 1. Loves at all times – deeds that demonstrate compassion – family
 - 2. Brothers – _____
 - ii. **Prov 18:24** A man who has friends **must himself be friendly**, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Foundations — My Life in Christ's Christ — Unit 2

MLICC 2.2

FELLOWSHIP

1. You must do your part
 2. You can not do someone else's part
 - iii. **Prov 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend**, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
 1. True friendship will involve speaking the truth in love
 2. Sometimes you don't know it isn't a friend until the treachery surfaces
 - iv. **Prov 27:9** Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's **friend gives delight by hearty counsel**.
 1. Your words should be directed at bringing your friends heart to a place of courage to do the right thing
 2. **Josh 1:5-9** ... be strong and of good courage...
 - c. **Unhealthy** – Relationships can become one sided, self oriented, and detrimental. Christians commonly find it difficult to make the adjustments necessary to restore the relationship to health, or at least keep it from causing damage in their own lives.
 - i. **1 Cor 5:11** But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is **sexually immoral**, or **covetous**, or an **idolater**, or a **reviler**, or a **drunkard**, or an **extortioner** — not even to eat with such a person.
 - ii. **2 Thess 3:6-12** But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ... 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, **not working at all, but are busybodies**. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.
 - iii. **Rom 16:17** Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. (James 4:1-5 Wars and fights among you ...)
 - iv. Based on the above Scriptures, why do you think God instructs us to cut off certain relationship?
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MLICC 2.2

FELLOWSHIP

III. Conflict Resolution & Listening – it is inevitable that close relationships will be tested and how we respond to those tests will ultimately decide our level of growth and Kingdom productivity. Abraham, David, Moses, Peter, and Paul had conflicts with people at all levels of their life and so will we.

a. **Three types of communicators:** Assertive / Aggressive / Passive

i. **Passive** – stuff it – no complaining until the explosion – **1 Cor 5:1-5**

1. Peace at any cost...
2. Look at how gracious we are...
3. Whatever you say...

ii. **Aggressive** – Accusation and blame – “you did this to me ...”

1. Defend self – you started it
2. Attack - get them before they get you

iii. **Assertive** – Saying what you want – speak up without making sweeping statements – Jesus

1. Listen and consider what is said
2. Respond to what is said – stay on the subject

iv. **Multiple choice question** – I am sitting in my bedroom and drops of water begin to fall on me. It is raining outside. The best solution for the water that is dripping from my ceiling in the bedroom is likely...?

1. Dehumidifier
2. Umbrella
3. Indoor Tent
4. Hat & rain coat
5. Fix the roof