

THREE BENEFITS OF FELLOWSHIP

TEXT: John 15:14-15; Acts 2:41-47

INTRODUCTION:

1. Fellowship is the relationship that we have with one another as Christians. It is based on the relationship we have with Jesus Christ.
2. When you and I became Christians three relationships changed.
 - A. Jesus became our Savior.
 - B. God became our Father.
 - C. The Church became our Family.
3. This morning I would like to look at Three Benefits of Fellowship as it relates to friendship.

I. FELLOWSHIP BUILDS FRIENDSHIPS.

- A. The early church really was a close knit group.
- B. They were all together and had everything in common.
- C. I believe that the reason that the early church had such good relationships was because of their commitment to Jesus and each other.
- D. Togetherness builds RELATIONSHIPS.
- E. Relationships build FELLOWSHIP.
- F. Fellowship builds FRIENDSHIPS.
- G. Look at what Jesus said again about friendship - **John 15:14-15**.
- H. Friendships are important to God. God is a friend to us.
- I. I have learned that most people want good friendships. If you want to build good friendships in the church then you need to get involved with things in the church.
- J. You cannot expect good relationships to be built if you are not fellowshiping with other Christians.
- K. Fellowship can only be built with T – I – M – E.
- L. Fellowship begins with attendance – but it goes far beyond that.
- M. Fellowship is building ongoing relationships with fellow believers.

II. FELLOWSHIP BUILDS UNITY.

- A. Did you know that you can have union without unity? To prove this point look at the lives of many married couples. They have created a union without unity.
- B. The church is called to be united. Unity is having everything in common and being of the same mind - **Psalm 133:1**.
- C. Fellowship builds unity, it did in the early church and it does now.

III. FELLOWSHIP BUILDS GOD'S KINGDOM.

- A. Notice the last phrase of our text from **Acts 2:47** says "*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*"
- B. Our fellowship, the relationship we have with one another and with Jesus is a witness to the world.
- C. The early church was committed to Jesus and to one another and the world saw it.
- D. When Christians regularly meet together to worship God and fellowship with one another, we are a witness to the world.
- E. Look at what Jesus said in **John 13:35**.
- F. We are to Love God and Love People.
 - 1. How do you become a part of God's fellowship?
 - 2. How do you become a part of His family?
 - 3. How do you become a part of His church?
 - 4. It all starts with relationship.

CONCLUSION: