

Why Fellowship with the Church?

What's a good working definition for "fellowship" (κοινωνία)? How does it relate to socializing?

What are some practical ways to help facilitate fellowship in the midst of socializing?

What is the basis for fellowship with other Christians? (1 John 1:3)

Why, at first glance at least, might "fellowship" seem out of place in the Acts 2:42 list?

What are some reasons why folks minimize and/or neglect fellowship with church members?

How might you respond to such reasons to further encourage fellowship?

Dr. Whitney lists the following **reasons for fellowship with the church**:

1. Fellowship with the church is a unique privilege.
2. Fellowship with the church provides unique benefits.
 - How is fellowship unique? How is it a privilege (not merely a duty)?
 - What are some of the unique benefits of fellowship?

What is the point being made by J. I. Packer with the following on page 153? "A body in which the blood does not circulate properly is always below par, and fellowship corresponds to the circulation of the blood in the body of Christ."

One of the unique benefits of fellowship is experiencing the "gifts and grace given to others." How is that the case? (1 Pet 4:10; Eph 4:15-16; Heb 3:13)

What are the strengths & weaknesses of your fellowship being limited to those like you?

T or F, and Why? "The neglect of fellowship with the church is sinful."

How is fellowship like a bank?

How are attendance and fellowship distinct and yet related?

What are the potential costs and risks involved in fellowship?

John MacArthur wrote the following: "Anybody in fellowship with Jesus Christ is also in fellowship with anybody else in fellowship with Jesus Christ. This is our common ground. It is not social, economic, intellectual, cosmetic, or anything else superficial. Our common ground is that which is pulsing through the life of every Christian—the heartbeat of God. Our common ground is that we possess a common eternal life and are children in the same family."

- If he's right, what does that say about Christians who prioritize time with physical family or those with similar interests or those of similar skin tone, etc? (*cf.* Mark 3:31-35)

J. I. Packer wrote, "As we value the health of our souls and of the Christian church, then, we must learn to prize fellowship."

- But what if those not valuing fellowship really don't value the health of their own souls? What can be done to try to help them see the importance of spiritual health as well as the essential role fellowship plays in that regard?