

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE NEED FOR, AND PURPOSE OF ONGOING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

NOTE: See separate study entitled "[Christian Maturity](#)."

Mutual encouragement

- Heb 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.
- Heb 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- Heb 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- Rom 1:12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.
- 1Th 4:18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.
- Act 11:22-24 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.
- Act 14:27a On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them
- Act 15:32 Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.
- Act 16:40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.
- Act 20:1 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-by and set out for Macedonia.
- Col 4:8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.
- 1Th 3:2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,
- 1Pe 5:12b I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.
- 1Th 2:11-12 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Mutual edification

- Rom 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
- Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.
- 1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- Rom 15:2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.
- 1Co 14:12b try to excel in gifts that build up the church.
- Act 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.
- Pr 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.
- Eph 5:19a Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Mutual concern and compassion

- Act 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.
- Act 2:44-47 All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- 1Co 12:25-26 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- 2Co 1:3-7 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.
- 2Co 7:6-7 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.
- 1Pe 5:5b All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,
- Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- Rom 12:10b Honor one another above yourselves.
- Phl 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Jam 5:16a Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

- Col 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- 1Pe 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- Heb 13:22 Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.
- Lk 3:18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Mutual love

- Jn 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- Eph 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- Rom 12:10a Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
- Heb 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.
- Col 2:2a My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love,
- 1Pe 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

To seek, develop, maintain and conduct ourselves in like-mindedness and unity; with common purpose

(See separate study entitled "Christian Unity: One Bread - One Body")

Strength in numbers

- Ecc 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
- Mk 6:7a Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two
- Mt 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

In remembrance of Jesus and what He has done for us

- 1Co 11:24-26 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Act 20:7a On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.

As Christians, we *HAVE* fellowship with one another

- 1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.