
Commitment to Fellowship

Paul was very concerned about the commitment of believers to fellowship with God and with other believers. Read the following passages and write down the essence of what Paul is saying: Romans 14:13-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Philippians 2:1-9.

Paul's greatest concern for the church was in the area of fellowship. We see from reading Romans 14 that his concern was related to judging people. In 1 Corinthians 12 he was concerned that believers see each other as equal in the body because each member had its role and if he could not fulfill his role then the body would be weak. In Ephesians 5 we see the importance of submitting to each other. Finally, in Philippians 2 Paul was concerned that there would be unity in the church.

The Expression of this Commitment

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7

In this passage we see three things that characterized Paul's relationship with Timothy. Answer the following question and see if you can identify those characteristics.

1. Looking at verse 3, what do you think it means to have a clear conscience in relation to fellowship with other believers?

2. What importance does prayer play in fellowship with other believers?

3. Read the following passages and write down how each person prayed for others:

John 17:11-17

Ephesians 1:17-19

4. How do you think Timothy felt after he read verses 4 and 5?

5. Where do you think you can find the most encouragement and why can you find it there?

An Example of Fellowship

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and 1 Samuel 20:3, 17-23, 41-42

The following statements are some characteristics of Jonathan and David's relationship. See if you can find the corresponding verses in the passages that you just read.

Love for others as for self.

Considering other more important than self.

Transparency

Mutual trust

Application

1. Think about Paul's statement about having a clear conscience. Do you think you could say that you have a clear conscience as you stand before God? If not, what do you need to do in order to have a clear conscience?
2. Be prepared to share some personal prayer requests with the group so that we can prayer for each other during the course of the week.
3. Think about ways in which you can encourage someone. What are some of your ideas? How can you apply them in our group?