

THE 5 PILLARS OF THE CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP

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Fellowship. A picture of eternity. The versatile and dynamic component that we participate in, whilst building the Kingdom of God. Gods people gathering together, unifying beyond our diversity and our differences, to share with, learn with, teach with, build with, forgive, give to, eat with, drink with, cry with, laugh with, love with and grow in Christ with. To be tested with, fail with and be patient with. Growing in grace and mercy. Gods family in practice.

Background

- *Koinōnia* - 'fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation' (Strongs)
- The Church. Membership. (Gen 2:18, 1 Cor 12:12, Eph 2:21,22, 3:6,4:16, Col 2:19)
- Fellowship of believers is a gift. (Acts 26:18)

1. A few home truths

- The fallacy of the lone wolf. (Prov 18:1)
- You are an unfinished work. (Phil 1:6)
- We need to be taught how to get along. (1 Tim 3:14,15)

2. Authenticity

- Superficiality. (Eph 4:25, 2 Cor 5:17)
- Honesty/gossip. (Ps 41:6,9)
- Risk. (Prov 3:5)
- Speaking the truth in love. (Eph 4:15)

3. Going higher, for the better fruit

- Sharing our struggles makes us stronger believers. (Gal 6:2)
- Frankness, not rudeness. (Prov 28:23, Ecc 8:6, 1 Tim 5:1-2)
- Forgiveness, mercy and grace. (Luke 11:4)

Practicable Actions

- Participation at every opportunity/Whatsapp groups.
- Smaller groups are better for getting to know people; bigger groups give us the chance to meet more new people.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to contact or pray for people. Let them know with encouragement.
- Embrace everyone!
- Time is one of the greatest gifts we can give to another.

Fellowship can sometimes be hard. Meeting new people, maybe from a variety of backgrounds, upbringing or experiences, with the thought that I may not be liked or accepted. It may feel awkward at times. Ideals and ideas clashing as well as minds occasionally too. However as we mature in Christ we see our differences less, we see ourselves less. We see Christ as our unifier and bond, as our focus moves to seek to be better for others' benefit.

Bibliography: The Purpose Driven Life - Rick Warren