

Fellowship- A Relationship

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I. Introduction.

- A. “Koinonia” means to share together or to share with.
- B. Fellowship means relationship. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13ff)
- C. God sees us as individuals, but He immediately incorporates us into the worldwide body of Christ.
- D. “Relationship” means that we are “connected by a common origin.” In the sense of the body of Christ, we are objectively and organically connected with every other believer by a common spiritual origin in Christ.

II. We mutually belong to each other. We need to apply our sense of belonging practically. (Romans 12:4-5, 10, 13, 15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:24-26)

- A. Our response to other believers’ moral failures should be concern and prayer rather than criticism, gossip and condemnation.
- B. We should rejoice in other believers’ honor and eliminate competition.
- C. We should confront one another out of belonging and in love. Our objective should be restored fellowship. (Revelation 3:14ff)
- D. We must enlarge our prayer life to include the whole body of Christ, as well as those who are our specific responsibility. (Ephesians 4:16)

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to belong to one another as Christians?

2. How does individualism detract from an attitude of belonging?

3. What are some practical ways that you can express an attitude of belonging in your relationship with other Christians? What does practicing belonging look like in your life?
