Fellowship

(A Core Value of Grace & Faith Fellowship)

Opening Scripture

*Acts 2:42 NLT*

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.*

Introduction- As we launch this church called Grace & Faith Fellowship, I want to begin a series of messages that give a picture of our three core values which are: Fellowship, Worship, and Discipleship. We also endeavor to properly define what Grace and Faith are respectively, while also expressing how they work together in our walk with the Lord. We will begin with Fellowship.

**What is Fellowship?**

Give Operational Definition of Fellowship: In the majority of instances the word Fellowship appears in the New Testament as the Greek word Koinonia, which is related to the words: partnership, participation, and communion

Identify Points To Be Addressed**:**

-What It Means To Have Fellowship with God

-What Fellowship with the Body of Christ is

-Why Fellowship with a Local Body of Believers is vital in our lives

**-What It Means To Have Fellowship with God- (Remember the words Participation, Partnership, and Communion)**

* **Our Participation with God**

The word participation according to vocabulary.com defines participation as the following: “If **you** take part in an activity or organization, **you participate** in it. For example, **you participate** in a conversation by listening to and talking with others, or **you participate** in a sport by joining a team and taking part in practices and games. **You can** use the verb **participate** to **mean** "be involved in" or "share in.”

*1 Corinthians 1:8-9 AMPC*

*And He will establish you to the end [keep you steadfast, give you strength, and guarantee your vindication; He will be your warrant against all accusation or indictment so that you will be] guiltless and irreproachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [9] God is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be depended on); by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***\*As followers of Jesus Christ we have the privilege of sharing in Christ’s Victory. \****

***Romans 5:17 NLT***

***[17] For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.***

Jesus’ finished work gives every believer the gift of: (Expound on Each)

**Have Eternal Life (Abundant Life Here on Earth and Life Forever in Heaven with God)**

***John 10:9-10 AMP***

***I am the Door; anyone who enters through Me will be saved [and will live forever], and will go in and out [freely], and find pasture (spiritual security). [10] The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].***

**Redemption from The Curse of the Law**

***Galatians 3:13-14 NKJV***

***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), [14] that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

**Peace**

***John 14:27 NKJV***

***Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***

**Healing**

***1 Peter 2:24 NASB***

***and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.***

* **Our Partnership with God**

*2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NLT*

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! [18] And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. [19] For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. [20] So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” [21] For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

**(Expound on these verses above highlighting Our Partnership with sharing the Gospel Message)**

Once we are Born Again, we become members of God’s family. This was made possible by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When He died on the cross He died to pay for our sin and removing the barrier between us God.

The purpose of Partnership is for two parties to work together to reach an established goal. Our Partnership with God allows us the opportunity to lead others into relationship with Him and to enjoy relationship with Him ourselves. Our Partnership with God affords God the opportunity to express His love through the people He loved so much, that He humbled himself to take on human flesh and die for us.

**-Our Communion with God**

John 6:51-58 NKJV

*I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” [52] The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” [53] Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. [56] He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. [57] As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. [58] This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”*

The word picture here illustrates give us a glimpse of the closeness that the believer has with God the Father through Jesus Christ. Jesus refers to himself as the Living Bread, Bread especially in ancient times was a staple in people’s diets. When we look at how physical food is used to sustain our physical bodies, we get a picture of how Jesus’ sacrificial death creating a level of Oneness that is hard to fathom. When we eat physical bread, that bread broken down by our digestive system and the nutrients inside that food is used to provide energy for the body and the nutrients are used to repair and replace old damaged cells. The bread that we ate yesterday literally becomes a part of our body.

So, when we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are symbolizing our partaking of eternal life. We are proclaiming the reality and the efficacy of the Lord’s death.

Thus, the communion table is not just a ritual we do at church, it is an act of celebration and appreciation of our Lord’s Loving Sacrifice for us.

Through the finished work of Christ, those who believe have Fellowship with God.

We are **Partners** in His Mission, We **Participate (Share)** in the Benefits of His Work, We **Commune** with His Spirit.

(Alter Call & Benediction)