

Chapter 6

Habits of a Follower of Christ: Fellowship, Tithing, & Service

1. WHY IS FELLOWSHIP IMPORTANT?

A. I belong in God's family with other believers.

B. I need encouragement to grow spiritually.

"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and to do good deeds." —*Hebrews 10:24*

"Two are better off than one...If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him...Two can resist an attack that would defeat one alone... A rope of three cords is hard to break." —*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12*

C. I need accountability to grow spiritually.

"Every day... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin."

—*Hebrews 3:13*

"My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens. And in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." —*Galatians 6:1 & 2*

D. Christ is present when we fellowship together.

"For wherever two or three people have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"

—*Matthew 18:20*

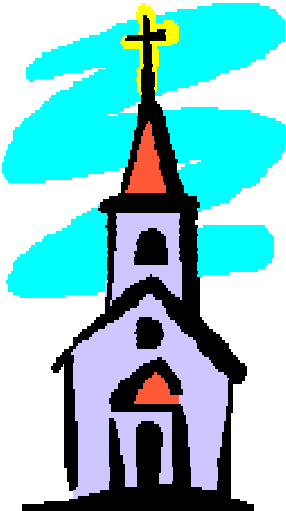
E. There is great power when people pray together.

"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." —*Matthew 18:19*

F. Fellowship is a witness to the world.

"(Jesus) My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind... so the world will believe you sent me." —*John 17:21*

G. I am obligated to every other Christian!



The "ONE ANOTHERS" of Fellowship (partial list)

- **Serve** one another Galatians 5:13
- **Accept** one another Romans 15:7
- **Forgive** one another Colossians 3:13
- **Greet** one another Romans 6:16
- **Bear** one another's burdens Galatians 6:2
- **Be devoted** to one another Romans 12:10
- **Honor** one another Romans 12:10
- **Teach** one another Romans 15:14
- **Submit** to one another Ephesians 5:21
- **Encourage** one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11

2. THE AMAZING GROWTH OF THE FIRST CHURCH

Acts 1:15 120

Acts 4:4 5000 men

Acts 6:1,7 increasing

Acts 2:41-47 3000+

Acts 5:14,28 great numbers

Acts 21:20 many thousands

During the first 25 years of the Jerusalem Church, it grew from 120 people to over 200,000!

3. WHERE DID THEY PUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE ?

A. "(They met) day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house ." —*Acts 5:42*

B. Two types of meetings: Large group & Small group.

C. "Greet the church that meets in their home." —*Romans 16:5; Also, Acts 2:46, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15.*

4. WHAT DID THE FIRST HOME CHURCHES DO?

Acts 2:42

They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer.

- A. They interacted around God's Word.
- B. They shared meals together.
- C. They had communion together.
- D. They prayed
- E. They supported each other.
- F. They worshipped together.
- G. They reached out to others.



THE BIBLICAL MODEL OF FELLOWSHIP: BEING A PART OF A LARGE AND A SMALL GROUP

Worship - Large Group

Preaching

Vision

100's, 1000's

Attending

Acquaintance

Attraction

Structured

Sunday School and Small Groups

Teaching & Discussion

Personal Guidance & Support

Less than 15

Connecting & Maturing

Close Friends

Incorporation

Informal

- If you are not part of a weekly small group, you are missing out on supporting others and being supported!
- Small groups are where you connect with others in ways that are truly being spiritual family for each other!

Small Groups Come In Many Forms:

- **Sunday School** - There are Sunday School classes for all ages and all types of people. Every Sunday School class (every small group for that matter) has a different "flavor". If the first Sunday School class you try doesn't fit you, DON'T GIVE UP! Try another! There are many classes and one of them will fit you.

- **JOY Groups** - Joy Groups meet in homes and are usually geared around a theme. The bulletin board has information on the Joy Groups meeting at the present time. You will find groups geared towards many different needs. And if you have an idea for a need to be addressed by a Joy Group, let us know through your Communication Card.
- **Reunion Groups** - These small groups are designed around providing accountability in our Christian walk.

Small Groups That Are Healthy Will Grow & Multiply

- Healthy Small Groups tend to grow... people just love the wonderful fellowship that these groups provide.
- When a small group grows past 12 regular attenders, it begins to lose its function as a small group. When this happens, the small group needs to multiply into 2 groups to remain healthy.
- Small Groups have an "open chair". We look for opportunities to invite people, especially the unchurched, to our small group. Many times, people who will not go to church will go to a small group. The love that they experience in the small group will lead them to Christ.

NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE HABIT OF TITHING...

"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn." — 1 Corinthians 16:2

"Just as you excel in everything else...in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness... see that you also excel in the grace of giving." — 2 Cor. 8:7

KEY BIBLE WORDS

Believe: 272x Love: 714x

Pray: 371x Give: 2162x



TEN BENEFITS FROM TITHING

Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!

1. God is pleased by your obedience.
2. You are eligible for a blessing.

Prov. 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything your land produces.

3. God is honored by your faithfulness. (Prov. 3:9)

Mt. 6:21

Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

4. It helps keep your priorities straight. (Matt 6:21)

Acts 20:35

And I have been a constant example of how you can help the poor by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

5. Guards Christians from selfishness

Mt. 28:19-20

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

6. Supports the Great Commission.

Mt. 6:33

"And he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."

7. Ensures your needs will be met.

1 Cor. 16:1,2

"Now about the money being collected for the Christians in Jerusalem: You should follow the same procedures I gave to the churches in Galatia. On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once."

8. It helps meet the needs of God's people.

1 Tim. 6:17,18

Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them.

9. It reminds us that God is the true owner and giver of all that we have.

Let's Talk about SERVICE...

2 Cor. 9:7 “You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure.



At College Heights, we view ministry involvement (of all members) as essential.

We desire to assist the body of believers in realizing their full potential for Christ, through discovery and development of their spiritual gifts in a variety of effective and fulfilling ministries.

It is this common involvement and teamwork which brings glory to God and strengthens His Church.

1. Every believer is a minister/servant.
2. Every believer has been given at least one gift.
3. Ministry is a privilege .
4. When a person's gifts and passions are matched to a meaningful ministry, it results in satisfaction.
5. Ministry enhances your spiritual growth.
6. Ministry is pleasing to God.
7. Ministry unleashes the power of the Holy Spirit.
8. Ministry multiplies the church's effectiveness.

How Do I Discover a Ministry That Fits Me?

We have a special class called **NETWORK** that is designed to help you discover your spiritual gifts, passions, and personal style and what places of service would match you. You will be encouraged to attend the next available **NETWORK** class.