

## Fellowship

On Friday, the Lord began speaking to me about the importance of fellowship. Fellowship is a big contributor to building relationships. We are all created in God's image and therefore we are all created to have relationships. To have any joy, peace and happiness in life, then relationships need to be an important part of our lives.

As I sat before the Lord praying about what to do for today's message I felt strongly that the Lord is desiring to expand our borders through relationships. Fellowship in the New Testament was an important part of life. It was a time of coming together as a means for sharing, caring and self-sacrifice with other believers. We can see through scripture that relationships are a big part of how we touch other lives.

Since the majority of good relationships don't just happen by accident, we should take into careful consideration what each one of us must do in order to insure good relationships in life with those around us.

Did you know that our relationship with God can be seen in our relationship with others? Did you know that our attitudes and actions are both key components in having or building good relationships? Relationships are a choice and take effort. Each relationship we have is an extension of God's love. God greatly desires for us to not only be in a relationship with HIM, but with each other.

We can see throughout various passages in the Bible that fellowship and food are often linked to the presence of God and are closely related. He desires fellowship to be an active part in our lives and eating with each other is a bit part of it.

- "So they saw God, and they ate and drank" (Exodus 24:11)
- "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." ( John 21:15)
- "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. Zacchaeus came down and was glad to welcome Jesus into his home. But the people who saw this began to express disapproval. They said, "He went to be the guest of a sinner."
- {Later, at dinner,} Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Lord I'll give half of my property to the poor. I'll pay four times as much as I owe to those I have cheated in any way."" (Luke 19:5-8)

It's time to reach out more to others. It's time to develop new relationships and strengthen old ones. It's time to open your home, or invite someone new out to eat. When you do this, you will be operating in HIS love, and strengthening the body through relationships. There is no doubt HE is calling us to come closer to HIM. As we come closer to each other, we are coming closer to HIM. Beloved, He is calling the body to Fellowship and to "know those among you".

Please prayerfully seek the Lord regarding who HE wants you to spend more time with and then go do it!

Dr. Gina Cobb -June 13, 2016