

FELLOWSHIP IS IMPORTANT

How many times have you stood during the singing of the invitation song only to see no one coming forward but some of the members leaving? How many times, after the last "Amen", have you seen the preacher "shake out" the members right into their cars? How many times have you heard about ball games, politics, the latest fad, or a new apple pie recipe in the fellowship after worship? Sad but true, Christians find many things to talk about during the fellowship time that have little to do with Christian fellowship.

I wonder, while all this talk is going on, how many people who are unhappy, depressed, in trouble, confused, and discouraged spiritually are being admonished by someone with the fruit of the Spirit. I wonder, while all this talk is going on, if the elders are being encouraged to lead the congregation. I wonder with all this talk is going on, if the preachers are encouraged to keep on preaching the truth. I wonder, while all this talk is going on, if the members are getting to know one another on a personal, informal basis. I wonder, while all this talk is going on, if people know of visitors to the services that should be welcomed and re-invited.

The fact is brethren, that our fellowship is not what it should be. Our purpose in meeting together is to praise God and to encourage one another. It is the responsibility of the congregation to see that no one has an unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God (Heb. 3:12,13). Fellowship is important! Every day we must withstand the temptations of Satan and the pressures of living in a non-Christian world. When we come together we need each other! Worship times, and times of fellowship can be the most productive times in acquiring the strength we need to live for God.

In closing re-read all the questions posed at the beginning of this article and then listen to the words of Heb. 10:24; "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." (NASV)

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