

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 2:42-47**.
- B. This is the first in a two-part sermon on fellowship.
- C. This morning's lesson is on:
 - 1. The principle of fellowship.
 - 2. The purpose of fellowship.
 - 3. The potential of fellowship.
- D. Tonight's lesson will be on:
 - 1. The parameters of fellowship.
 - 2. The practice of fellowship.
- E. FELLOWSHIP is from the Greek, "koinonia" and means that which we have in common, a partnership, it is a sharing (Rom. 14:17).
- F. There are two areas of spiritual sharing:
 - 1. Our fellowship with X as in 1Cor. 1:9.
 - 2. Our fellowship with Xians as in 1Cor. 12:13.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF FELLOWSHIP IS SHARING.

- A. In the book of 1John, there are three recurring, fundamental principles on which fellowship w/God is to be established and maintained:
 - 1. Respecting the truth (1Jn. 2:21).
 - 2. Giving and receiving love (1Jn. 2:5; 3:1,18; 4:10,16).
 - 3. Obeying God (1Jn. 2:2; 3:22,24; 5:2).
- B. The principle of sharing is brought out in the following:
 - 1. The participation in the LS (1Cor. 10:16,21).
 - 2. The sharing of physical blessings (Rom. 15:26-27).
 - 3. The sharing in the sufferings of X (1Pet. 4:13; Phil. 3:10).
 - 4. Xians are not to share in the sins/evil deeds of others (1Tim. 5:22; 2Jn. v11; 2Cor. 6:14ff).
- C. To have fellowship is to share with someone or something.

II. THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP IS SUPPORT.

- A. Every Xian needs the encouragement, relief, and strength that a loving, close fellowship provides. There are too many ups and downs in life to be able to spiritually survive without it.
- B. Simply put the Xian is to be able to rejoice w/those who rejoice and to weep w/those who weep (Rom. 12:15).
- C. The support is given through good deeds and sharing (Heb. 13:16).
- D. Notice the things mentioned in Romans 12 (the Xian's support system):
 - 1. Love, be devoted, be diligent (v9-11).
 - 2. Contribute, be hospitable (v13).
 - 3. Rejoice and weep (v15).
 - 4. Be humble, of same mind, associate w/the lowly (v16).
- E. Grace, love, and fellowship go together (2Cor. 13:14).

III. THE POTENTIAL OF FELLOWSHIP IS INCALCULABLE (AND YET, UNREALIZED).

- A. Think back to the cooperation and "power" of the people building the great tower. Because of their fellowship one with another nothing was impossible for them! (Gen. 11:5-9).
- B. Solomon spoke of the immunity, safety, and recovery that belong to those who are sharing their lives with others (Eccl. 4:9-12).

- C. The perfect goal is fellowship with God through the apostles words (1Jn. 1:3).
- D. And the potential unrealized is up to each Xian. The more that one walks in the light the greater the fellowship. The more that one walks in the darkness the less fellowship we have with God and with one another (1Jn. 1:6-7).
- E. A good exercise in the potential of fellowship is to look up all the "one another" passages in the NT and then apply them to your life.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. This morning we have looked at three parts of fellowship:
 - 1. The principle of fellowship is sharing.
 - 2. The purpose of fellowship is support.
 - 3. The potential of fellowship is incalculable.
- B. Tonight the subjects are:
 - 1. The parameters of fellowship.
 - 2. The practice of fellowship.
- C. Without becoming a Xian there is no fellowship with God (Jn. 14:23).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.