

THE POWER OF FELLOWSHIP

25/5/08

Fellowship is much more than turning up at a meeting and communion is much more than drinking and eating food elements once a week.

Paul makes some very sobering observations about the benefits of fellowship and the severe cost of misunderstanding these truths.

1COR 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. *How is it possible to mistake the Lord's body... we all know what it is, don't we? Isn't it Christ, the son of God that died on the cross? We all know how to eat and drink the communion elements, as no skill is required... what can be the problem?*

30 For this cause **many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.** *This would seem such a terrible result to come from not taking the communion the right way... or is there another understanding? These warnings relate to fellowship... By not supporting and understanding the value of the fellowship, these failings can come about... see the box above.*

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. *We need to determine whether we are genuine partakers of the fellowship or not. Numerous other scriptures highlight our fellowship responsibilities and it is in our interests to know them well.*

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. *God has asked us to learn what our requirements are... if we don't, he will bring it to our attention, whether we like it or not... he wants to save us from failure.*

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, **tarry** (wait) one for another. *Be there for each other... not just for yourself.*

These verses highlight the requirements to fellowship and the primary actions of those who do.

HEB 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *This is the same type of warning that Paul revealed to the Corinthians.*

Paul also encourages us to stick to good solid doctrine, while he also warns us of the failure of Spirit filled people to maintain a love of the truth.

2TIM 4:1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

There is no substitute for fellowship, nor are the benefits achieved through any other practice.

1COR 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. *This warning is written because the following points are not as obvious as many assume.*

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** (*fellowship*) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** (*fellowship*) of the body of Christ? *Our getting together in the power of the Spirit.*

17 For we *being* many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. *The church members are the true bread. The communion service is only representative. We are all members of the one body. 1Cor 12.*