

## **cFellowship and Visitation I - By Bro Asaolu, COC Akoka 07/01/2009**

**Text:** Acts 2:42

**AIM:** To Define and Identify forms of Fellowship And Its Importance

### **INTRODUCTION**

True fellowship involves getting together for spiritual purposes: for sharing needs, for prayer, for discussing and sharing the Word to encourage, comfort, and edify one another.”

### **IMPORTANCE**

Modern religion talks of privacy, sermon on tv/radio, giving by ATM card on web/phone, music on CD/DVD, texting in payer requests to 24hr prayer warriors, etc.

However, You CANNOT “Give your TV a great big hug” or partake of the communion that way. You need real human, interpersonal contact to look upon and/or touch your brethren for true fellowship as you share the word, your experiences (trials & triumphs) and material goodies.

### **DEFINITIONS**

According to Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary it means:

- (a) companionship, company, associate (vb.);
- (b) the community of interest, activity, feeling or experience, i.e., a unified body of people of equal rank sharing in common interests, goals, and characteristics, etc.;
- (c) partnership, membership (an obsolete usage but an important one. It shows what has happened to our ideas of fellowship).

There are *three key ideas* that come out of this:

- (1) Fellowship means being a part of a group, a body of people. It is opposed to isolation, solitude, loneliness, and our present-day independent kind of individualism. Of course, it does not stop there because we can be in a crowd of people and even share certain things in common, but still not have fellowship.
- (2) Fellowship means having or sharing with others certain things in common such as interest, goals, feelings, beliefs, activities, labor, privileges and responsibilities, experiences, and concerns.
- (3) Fellowship can mean a partnership that involves working together and caring for one another as a company of people, like a company of soldiers or members of a family.

Fellowship - comes from Greek words "Koinonia and metocos"

The New Testament usage refers to:

- (a) the thing shared in common in some way by all parties involved as relationships, blessings or burdens, privileges, or responsibilities
- (b) the person(s) doing the sharing with others;

**REASONS FOR FELLOWSHIP - *combat loneliness, provide mutual help and obey divine command that will someday be rewarded.***

(a) **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. **Proverbs 27:17** Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.

(b) **1 Corinthians 12:12-18** For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made

to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

(c) **Malachi 3:16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Aspects of Fellowship:

Relationship - ICor 1:9,13 I Jn 1:3

Partnership - IICor 8:23, Gal 2:9, Philemon 17,23-24

Companionship - II Cor 6:14

### **Forms of Fellowship is in TWO directions -**

(1) The Vertical: This is our communion and fellowship with the Lord through the Word, prayer, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the abiding life.

(2) The Horizontal: This is our communion and fellowship with the body of Christ, this includes:

(a) assembling together as a whole body (Acts. 2:42; Heb. 10:25);

(b) assembling in smaller groups (2 Tim. 2:2); house/zonal f\_

(c) meeting together one-on-one (1 Thess. 5:11; II Tim 4: 9-11

(d) sharing and communicating truth together and building up one another (Rom. 1:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Thess 5:11; Philem. 6);

(e) sharing together in worship, i.e., the Lord's supper (1 Cor. 10:16), the singing of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), prayer (1 Cor. 14:16-17, James 5:14-16), the ministry of the Word (Acts 20:20; 1 Pet. 4:10-11);

(f) sharing together to meet material needs of others -James 1:27;2:16, Acts 4:32, II Cor 8:4,14, Phil 4:14-16

(g) Sharing at picnics, feasts etc. -Jude 12, I Cor 10:27, Gal 2:12

### **CONCLUSIONS**

How do we find the strength, the wisdom, and the courage to have true fellowship?

At least part of the answer comes through obedience to the many 'one another' commands of the New Testament. For example, we are told to admonish one another (Rom. 15:14), to comfort and encourage one another (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11; Heb. 3:13), to worship with one another (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:25), to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2), to always seek the good of one another (1 Thess. 5:15), to be honest with one another (Col. 3:9), to show hospitality to one another (1 Pet. 4:9), and to be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50).

**Philippians 1:5** For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

**Philippians 2:1** ¶If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

**1 John 1:6-7** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.