

THE ASSEMBLY and the FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

Amos 3 v 3; Acts 1 v 2; Acts 2 v 42; 1 Cor 1 v 2, v 9; 2 Cor 6 v 14; Gal 2 v 9; Phil 2 v 1-2; 1 John 1 v 7.

Kindred words to the word fellowship - communion; contribution; distributing; communication; partaker; partners.

What is fellowship? -- It is two or more persons actively pursuing the one object! -- Peter, James & John - partners!

Assembly fellowship is based on apostle's teaching, Acts 2 v42 - and continuance in scriptural practices, 1 Cor 11 v2.

Fellowship between various assemblies is the same – while each individual assembly stands independent of others and is not linked to a head church or hierarchy, yet there can be expressed a oneness between them in the measure that each assembly is willing to be guided by the same scriptural pattern, which will hold good till the end of the age, and where there is evidence of a mutual love and concern for the preservation of the fellowship of the Spirit!

REQUIREMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP -- 7 Essential Features

1. Salvation (received his word)-- **2.** Baptism (baptised)-- **3.** sound teaching -1 Tim 1 v 3 -- **4.** moral fitness -Eph 5 v 11
5. a teachable submission - Heb 13 -- **6.** accept scriptural practices -1 Cor 14 v 37 -- **7.** join and continue -1 Tim 4 v 16.
Acts 20 v 29-30: Grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock also of your own selves shall men arise.

RECEPTION TO FELLOWSHIP -- (not just to break bread)

Acts 9 v 26: Saul of Tarsus assayed to join himself to the disciples afraid of him -- **v 28** - coming in and going out -
Acts 18 v 27: Apollos - brethren wrote ... receive him -- **Rom 16 v 2:** Commend ... Phebe - receive her in the Lord--
Phil 2 v 29: Epaphroditis - receive him with all gladness -- **Col 4 v 10:** Marcus, if he come unto you, receive him.
1 Cor 5 v 12-13: Those **within** the fellowship are distinct from those **without** - all are not **within** scriptural fellowship!

SOME RESTRICTIONS TO FELLOWSHIP

Amos 3 v 3: "Can two walk together except they be agreed" -- **Rom 16 v 17:** "Mark them which cause divisions" -
2 Cor 6 v 14: "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, what communion light with darkness."
1 Tim 5 v 22: "Neither be partaker of other men's sins" -- **1 Tim 6 v 3:** "if any teach from such withdraw thyself".

POSSIBLE RUINATION OF FELLOWSHIP

1 Cor 1 v 10: All speak the same thing – **v 11:** Contentions among you – **1 Cor 3 v 3:** envying, strife and divisions -
1 v 29: No flesh glory in His presence – **1 Cor 2 v 4-6:** wisdom of men & wisdom of this world – (mars fellowship) –
1 Cor 3 v 12: build upon this foundation wood, hay, stubble – which appeals to the natural appetite! – **2 v 14.**

RESULTS OF TRUE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Phil 2 v 1-4: Fellowship is a two-way street -- Fellowship that is the product of the Spirit of God will produce in us:
1.-like-mindedness -- **2.** the same love – **3.** of one accord – **4.** of one mind – **5.** lowliness of mind – **6.** Consider others.
Rom 15 v 6: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God – **Ps 133:** there the Lord commands the blessing!
How God would be glorified to see these features displayed in any local company of believers gathered to His Name!

SEVEN SCRIPTURAL FEATURES OF ASSEMBLY

- 1.** It is a spiritual fellowship – expressed as they meet together – 1 Cor 11.
- 2.** They have the promise of the Lord Jesus in their midst – Matt 18 v 20.
- 3.** The assembly is the temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor 3 v 16.
- 4.** Their sole authority is the Word of God – John 17 v 14 - Acts 20 v 32.
- 5.** They exercise the priesthood of believers – 1 Pet 2 v 5 (not one man ministry).
- 6.** They are guided by godly overseers and served by faithful deacons – 1 Tim 3.
- 7.** There is to be a clear line between those within and those without – 1 Cor 5 v 12-13.