

Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

Chapter 10: Why Fellowship with the Church?

Introduction:

Consistent and life-sustaining fellowship in the New Testament is inseparably joined to intimacy within a believing community. The first description of life in the first church: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship. . .”

I. Fellowship with the church is a unique privilege. (*I Cor. 1:9; Philippians 3:10*)

A. The unique blessing of Christian fellowship.

1. We share a common gift—the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. (*II Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:1*)

2. Christian fellowship involves the sharing of spiritual life. (*I John 1:3*)

B. The subject matter of Christian fellowship. (*Hebrews 10:25*)

II. Fellowship with the church provides unique benefits.

A. You experience the grace of God in ways you otherwise cannot. (*Acts 2:42*)

B. You experience the gifts and grace given to others. (*I Peter 4:10; Eph. 4:11-16*)

C. Your practice of the spiritual disciplines is encouraged. (*Heb. 3:13*)

D. You experience love in ways you otherwise cannot. (*John 13:34, 15:12; I John 3:23*)

III. More scriptural truths about fellowship.

A. The need for fellowship with the church is undeniable.

1. Spiritual people need to talk about spiritual things.

2. The strength of your spiritual fire is related to the fellowship you have with the body of Christ.

B. The neglect of fellowship with the church is sinful. (*Heb. 10:24-25*)

C. The privilege of fellowship with the church is costly. (*I John 1:3*)

1. It will cost you time.

2. It may cost initiative or hospitality.

D. The pursuit of fellowship with the church is worthwhile. (*Prov. 18:24*)