

Redefining Fellowship

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We are good at fellowship

So, if we are so good at what we do, why do we need to redefine fellowship?

- Sometimes we need to rediscover God's design for our lives
- Some of us have never experienced real fellowship
- Fellowship is what brings people to our Savior

Bottom line

- Human beings were created for fellowship with both God and man.

"Fellowship, designed by God, is our spiritual act of worship in response to God's love for us, extended to believers around us as we share a common bond and purpose."

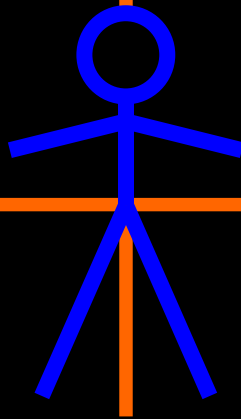
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- **The trinity**
- ***"Holy Father, protect them...so that they may be one as we are one."* John 17:11**

God

Relationships
with others

Relationships
with others



Us

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:36-40

"Fellowship, designed by God, is our spiritual act of worship in response to God's love for us, extended to believers around us as we share a common bond.."

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian Community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ." (Bonhoeffer)

Our common bond is Jesus
Christ--He is the only thing
that matters between us

"Fellowship, designed by God, is our spiritual act of worship in response to God's love for us, extended to believers around us as we share a common bond and purpose."

Our Purposes

I. We were created for His glory

in him we were also chosen... in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession to the praise of his glory.

(Eph. 1:11-14).

Our Purposes

I. We were created for His glory

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)

Our Purposes

2. We were created to love others

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matt. 5:43-45,48)

Our Purposes

3. We were created to be unified

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

(Phil 2:1-2)

Our Purposes

4. We were created to reach the lost

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Levels of Fellowship

- Fellowship of sharing and studying God's Word
 - *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19)*
 - *I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. (1 Tim 2:8)*

- How's your heart?

- What are you struggling with?

- What can I be praying for?

Fellowship of Serving

We need to be doing the
Lord's work together

Levels of Fellowship

- Fellowship of suffering
 - *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
(Phil. 3:10)

The Church in China

- 700,000 believers in 1950
- Today, over 20 million believers
 - Growth of 2857%
- Harbin church
- Beijing church

So what?

- Pray about your fellowship now
- Go and do it! Be the body!