

FELLOWSHIPS

What is a Fellowship? (Know)

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:14-16)

Our lives are to be a display of God’s love poured into our hearts, binding us together with the peace of Christ ruling in our hearts. There is a difference between a social gathering and fellowship. A social gathering often revolves around people and food, but fellowship stems from the word *koinoneia*, meaning, ***“to share our life in Christ together to encourage each other to grow.”*** When we are saved, we are brought into fellowship with God and with other believers. We are connected to the ***“Head, from which the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.” (Colossians 2:19)*** We have been knit together, each of us connected to Christ, our Head, in whom we all receive life and nourishment for our spiritual growth. There is both a vertical and a horizontal component to fellowship. Fellowship includes strong bonds of friendship centered on Christ. It involves sharing life experiences together with a commitment to help each other through the hardships as well as celebrate the victories.

Why are Fellowships Essential? (Grow)

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

A Grace Church Women’s Bible Study fellowship is a time when small groups come together and share life in Christ with each other and build relationships with one another. It is a time to focus on Christ and His Word, while encouraging and sharpening one another.

We are to spur one another on toward love and good works. Fellowship includes listening to one another for the purpose of learning more about each other so that we can encourage, challenge, pray for, and love one another. Each woman in your group has a story, and God is working in each woman’s life to bring about His purposes. Some women will be going through painful trials while others will be in seasons of rest or celebration. We have an opportunity to remind the women in our group of God’s goodness, His promises and faithfulness, and His plan to mold them to be more like Christ.

How Should We Fellowship? (Go)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) The early church set a pattern for us to follow.