

THE
WHY SHOULD I
SERIES

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHY SHOULD I FELLOWSHIP”

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

CALVARY CHAPEL, CHRISTIANITY, CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Acts 2:41-47

THE
“WHY SHOULD I”
SERIES

OF THE LIFE, MINISTRY AND INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Twelve Reason Why
You Should Take a Reasonable Look at Your Church

Acts 2:41-47

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The Church

Is the ministry vehicle that Jesus Christ has established on earth, to show forth, by word and deed the heart and will of God toward lost humanity.

1 Timothy 3:15

...I write to you so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God, which is the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**

It Is The Church,

That Jesus Promised, Would be Born on the Day of Pentecost and that it Would Become His Collective Messenger to the World...

Acts 1:6-9

Therefore, when they (the disciples) had come together, they asked Jesus, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ But Jesus answered and said to them, "**It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.** ⁸ **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; (the result shall be) and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (even Southern California)"** ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 2:1-4

Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The very thought, idea, concept

that man could fellowship with God, comes from God Himself. Us being with Him was His idea - not ours.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Fellowship **GRK 2842 koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah);**
To partnership, the act of participation, communion,
To be a social intercourse.

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and **fellowship**, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. What is Spiritual Fellowship?
2. Why is Spiritual Fellowship Important?
3. When is Spiritual Fellowship Encountered?
4. Where is Spiritual Fellowship Experienced?
5. Who can Spiritually Fellowship Together?

THE FELLOWSHIP FACTOR

1.) *What is Spiritual Fellowship?*

What is Spiritual Fellowship?

1a.) It is a spiritual event

It is a Unification / a Coming Together

Between a human soul and the Divine God

The Woman at the Well

(John 4)

The Men on the Emmaus Road

(Luke 24)

The Opening Up of a Man to God

What is Spiritual Fellowship?

1b.) It is an emotional event

When we Encounter God
It effects our emotions – and that’s o.k. !

“When They Wept in Scripture...”

Luke 24:31-32

Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³²
And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Two People in Love

Will Experience Emotion

A Parent for Their Child

Will Experience Emotion

Anyone Alive

Will Experience Emotion

Our Relationship will God

Must have emotion because it is a fellowship

Acts 3:2-9

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

Gee –
I wonder what kind of a witness
this man turned out to be?

Ya Think he had a bit of PASSION when he talked about JESUS?

What is Spiritual Fellowship?

1c.) It is a physical event

Acts 2:46

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

We Must be in Fellowship

Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Our Worship of God Must be a TOTAL experience

A well-balanced diet
The word / worship / witness

THE FELLOWSHIP FACTOR

2.) Why is Spiritual Fellowship Important?

Why is Spiritual Fellowship Important?

2a.) Because of who we are now

Redeemed sinners – purchased out of this world

Ephesians 2:13-14

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Fantastic Verse

Revelation 1:5

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

You Are a Gem to God

(Playing Marbles with Diamonds – Vance Havner)

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23

You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

Why is Spiritual Fellowship Important?

2b.) Because of what we are now

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Revelation 21:5a

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Why is Spiritual Fellowship Important?

2c.) Because of where we are now

“Where” meaning our heavenly seating

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

An Awesome Verse...

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship (politics / passport) is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(I'VE GOT A LIFETIME PASS FOR HEAVEN)

We are Both HERE and THERE at the SAME time

in the heavenlies

like the Israeli astronaut that is currently circling the earth in the space station he is seated in the heavenlies so to speak.

“he’s been herald as the first Israeli, first jew in orbit. That’s not true. Enoch was the First. Elijah was the Second, He’s the Third so far...

Our Citizenship is in Heaven

Our Citizenship is in Heaven

Because that is True

Our Conversation is Different Now

Our Priorities are Different Now

Our Lifestyles are Different Now

Because of Where we are now

In our Thoughts / our Treasures / our Efforts

THE FELLOWSHIP FACTOR

3.) *When is Spiritual Fellowship Encountered?*

When is Spiritual Fellowship Encountered?

3a.) *When we pray – that’s an encounter!*

That is, In Private Prayer

just you and the Lord and no one else in all the world!

That is, In Prayer Together

When just you and someone else are united before the Throne!

That is, In Corporate Prayer

When the Church gathers Together to do Body Ministry!

When God's People come together to Pray
You can Expect a Move of the Holy Spirit!

When is Spiritual Fellowship Encountered?

3b.) When we worship – that's an encounter!

PERSONAL WORSHIP – PRIVATE, ALONE, FREE

and then

CONVOCATIONAL WORSHIP – PUBLIC, UNITED, ORDERED

A Comment to this Church:

The Raising of Hands or Standing in Worship
They are Biblical Practices found in Scripture.

If You Don't Like – that is your personal preference
Not a scriptural conviction!

Be Careful in Church

Of what you approve of or reject because, it is your personal preference or is a biblical conviction?

You've been Called to be a Worshipper, not a Judge.
You do the loving, let God do the Judging!

Worship Brings us To Him

When is Spiritual Fellowship Encountered?

3c.) When we act – that's an encounter!

Meaning;
When we are United in a Divine Cause.

Prayer, Worship and Acting = The Doing

*The Ultimate Fellowship Encounter
Is when we are acting in reality*

Reality Being = Our Full Experience

Just Because an Airplane has Wings

It doesn't mean it will fly.

Just Because an Airplane has Engines

It doesn't mean it will fly.

Just Because an Airplane has Fuel

It doesn't mean it will fly.

And Just Because an Airplane has a pilot

It doesn't mean it will fly.

But When You Put it All Together and Apply All Aspects
Then you can expect. Look forward to and Achieve flight

Because All The Elements are Present at Once

That's When Spiritual Fellowship is Encountered

These Aspects are - Inseparable from Who we Are in Christ

Mankind's Trichotomy

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you **completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE FELLOWSHIP FACTOR

4.) *Where is Spiritual Fellowship Experienced?*

In the Church? - it can be!

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name,
I am there in the midst of them."

(CHURCH DISCIPLINE)

IN THE SUM TOTAL OF WHO WE ARE

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

Where is Spiritual Fellowship Experienced?

4a.) *In our heart*

That sounds so "Ethereal" - ghostly or mystical.
Maybe because it is uniquely "Eternal - Internal"

It beings in our hearts

EXPOUND ON THE REALM OF THE HEART...

Where is Spiritual Fellowship Experienced?

4b.) *In our mind*

The seat of reason and logic. The mind is man's psych, his thought life.
The mind is very much like the porch that leads you into the house

It comes to our minds

The Mind is like a Porch
And The Heart is Like a House

#1

The Mind is where we Argue Things In and Out.
It's Where we Debate.

#2

What Happen Here is Forwarded to the Heart
for Further Consideration

#3

Because the Mind is Open to Flirtation,
It's open to anything...

#4

Jesus gives a new heart at conversion,
But we must renew our old minds

The Mind will Follow

Whichever is the strongest // the spiritual or the carnal

In Our Christian Walks

We battle thoughts, which effect our motives

That's Why True Conversion Involves Our Intellect = REASON
With Our Belief = HEART , Together, For Saving Faith to Born!

Our Christian Faith, is faith Founded upon Facts

What We Allow on the Porch (Mind)
Will get into the House (Heart)

“What Comes out of the House
First entered in through the porch...”

Where is Spiritual Fellowship Experienced?

4c.) And in our common (communal) lives

In our homes, neighborhoods, jobs, friendships...

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

BECOMES YET ANOTHER SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR THE BELIEVER

“Celebration, Florida” Is A Master Planned Community

The look, the layout, the feel, the sounds, the access

Build for Totality – it’s perfect!!!

The Christian “Fellowship” can Only Happen
In A Master Planned Community”

- Planned by the Master – Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

>>>>>>> 1 John 4:17 <<<<<<<<

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

***Where is Fellowship Experienced?
Here, There, Everywhere we go...***

If God’s love, mercy, grace, peace, joy... is going to be in our community,
It must be presented by His representatives to the world around us...

THE FELLOWSHIP FACTOR

5.) *Who can Spiritually Fellowship Together?*

Ephesians 3:9

and to make all see what is **the fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

Philippians 1:3-6

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

5a.) *Anyone who can see their need of forgiveness*

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Romans 14:19

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Who can Spiritually Fellowship Together?

5b.) Anyone who longs to know real love for themselves

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:17

These things I command you, that you love one another.

***How can we know love?
We Must Do Love...***

1 John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Who can Spiritually Fellowship Together?

5c.) Anyone who desires to know Jesus Christ personally

There are Those Who Want to Know Jesus
These Are They Who...

There are Three Things That Are Evolving Characteristics Their Lives
(The One and Only True Evolution)

----- #1 – Pathos -----

(The passion)

“The Christian has found a new passion in life. The Lord has become his ‘Reason’ in everything he does, chiefly to this end – That the world may know the love and salvation of God, a world that has now become a smaller place – reachable for the glory of God.”

Acts 13:49-52

And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. – refilling!

(Pathos – The Passion)

----- #2 – Logos -----

(The word)

“The Christian has found a new standard for life - The Word of God. The Bible has taken on a whole new authority in the Christian’s life. It has become his guide to in everything he does. It is now his source of stability. He has found that it alone can fill the new hunger that has been born within him.

Ephesians 1:12-14a

...for we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also have trusted, after you heard **the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;** in whom also, having believed in Him, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ you who have this, the guarantee of your inheritance until the day of redemption...

(Logos – The Word)

----- #3 – Ethos -----

(The lifestyle)

“The Christian has seen that there is a difference in lifestyle from that of the world. He now is hearing from God, through the Bible, that there is a new way to live. The believer has a new sense of what is right and wrong. There is now a desire to live differently for God’s glory and not his own. He is now living for God, working for God, eating for God and breathing for God. He has found real life in God and true reality for life. He has The Reason for living!”

John 6:67-69

Then Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "Do you also want to go away as others do?"⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life."⁶⁹ "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Paul Summed it up Perfectly

Acts 17:26-28a

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,²⁷ "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;²⁸ "for in Him we live (ethos - lifestyle) and move (logos - word) and have our being (pathos - passion)..."

1 John 1:1-9

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, (PASSION) concerning the Word of life – (LOGOS)² The Life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, (ETHOS) and declare to you That Eternal Life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, **that you also may have fellowship with us**; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.