

“Understanding the Focus of Fellowship in the Church” 12/06/09

Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon Series- “Understanding the Nature and Function of the Church”

Background of Series- Why the church matters, Oneness of the body, gifts of the body, our witness to the Gospel, Worship, Acts 2:42-basics; Fellowship; appropriate for Advent

READ 1 John 1:1-3 –

Fellowship- “fellowship” (noun-marital), “share”(verb), “a willing contribution” (noun)

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.” Heb 13:17

“But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.” 1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV)

Background of Hebrews- Angels, Moses, Levitical Priesthood

POINT 1- The Focus of fellowship should be on our CONFESSION

Jude 1:3; New/living way Heb 10:19; John 14:6; doctrine/theologians; “Jesus”

- A. Our confession of hope is founded in the message of the GOSPEL
(Hebrews 1-10:18; Mark 1:15; 1 Cor 15:3-5; Deut 6:4-7)

What is the Lord teaching you this week?

- B. Our confession must be held on to tenaciously without WAVERING
(James 1:5-8; Matt 21:21; 17:20; Abraham- Rom 4:20-21; Gen 22)

Matt 13-parable of soils; 1 John 2:19

- C. Our confession is based on trusting that God has put this body together and is FAITHFUL to it! (Romans 8:28, 31-39; Revelation 1:19-20)

POINT 2- The Focus of fellowship should be oriented on OTHERS

- A. We are called to “take notice” and consider others more than OURSELVES (Romans 12:3; 16; Philippians 2:3)

- B. We are not called to take notice of their FAULTS, but instead to stir up LOVE AND GOOD WORKS!

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”
1 Peter 4:8 (also Matt 18:23-35; Eph 4:32)

POINT 3- The Focus of fellowship should be on the dynamics of our COMMUNITY OF SAINTS

- A. Our community requires that we do not ABANDON it because it’s difficult or because of persecution.

- B. Our community needs each of us to have a ministry of the HOLY SPIRIT, especially as Jesus’ return is coming (2 Pet 3:11; Prov 27:17; Gal 5:22-23)

“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

Going Deeper God wants you to focus on your confession, others, and community!