

A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Five Key Foundational Principles that Shape Us

1. We believe that there is only one God who eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, God is not a solitary being, rather He has fellowship within Himself.

A. Actions

1. Creation (Gen 1-2; John 1:3; 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2)
2. Incarnation (John 3:16; Gal 4:4)
3. Baptism (Matt 3)
4. Suffering (John 14-17)
5. Commission (Matt 28:18-20)
6. Salvation (Eph 1:3-14)
7. Glorification (Phil 2:8-12)

B. Attitudes

1. The Father loves and is well pleased with the Son (Matthew 12:18; John 3:35; 5:20-23; 15:9; Ephesians 1:6; Colossians 1:13).
2. The Son loves and seeks to honor the Father (John 17). He does the Father's will (John 6:38-39).
3. The Spirit seeks to honor the Son (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7).

2. We believe that since we are created in the image of God, we were created for fellowship with God and one another.

A. Fellowship with God (Genesis 2:18; 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14; 1 John 1:3)

B. Fellowship with One Another

1. A believer is marked by fellowship (1 John 1:7).
2. A believer is moved for fellowship (Acts 2:42-47; Heb 10:24-26).

3. We believe that sin always distorts our need and roles in fellowship with God and one another (Genesis 3:7-13).

- A. Sin alienates us from God.
- B. Sin alienates us from one another.
- C. Sin alienates us from ourselves.
- D. Sin alienates us from creation.

4. We believe that only through Jesus Christ can we be reconciled to fellowship with God and one another (John 17:20-26; Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:11-16).

5. We believe that the greatest expression of fellowship with God and one another is displayed by involvement in the local church.

A. The church has a special relationship with God.

1. Christ purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:14).
2. Christ is persecuted when the church is persecuted (Matthew 5:11; John 15:20; Acts 9:4; 1 Peter 4:12-14).
3. Christ is preparing the church for the "wedding day" (Ephesians 5:25-27, 32).

4. The Building of God (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3; Ephesians 2:20-22).
 5. The Flock of God (John 10:16; Acts 20:28).
 6. The Branches of God (John 15:1-6).
 7. The Body of Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16; 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18; 2:19).
 8. The Family of God (Galatians 3:26).
 9. The Household of God (Ephesians 2:18-19; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:4-5).
 10. The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32).
- B. The church functions for God in a special way.
1. Glorification (Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 3:21)
 2. Revelation (Ephesians 3:8-11)
 3. Proclamation (Matthew 24:14; Acts 2:42; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:9)
 4. Administration
 - a. Worship (Hebrews 10:24-29)
 - b. Baptism (Matthew 28:19)
 - c. Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
 - d. Accountability in holiness (Matthew 18:17-18; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3:9-11; Hebrews 3:12-19; 2 John 9-11).
 - e. Gifts/Giving/Service (1 Corinthians 14:26, 31; Ephesians 4:11ff; 1 John 3:14)
 - f. Leadership (1 Timothy 3)
 - g. Evangelism and Missions (Matthew 24:14; John 13:35; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15)
- C. The church acts for God in a special way.
1. Love One Another (John 13:34-35, 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 4:11-12; 2 John 1:5).
 2. Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13).
 3. Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10).
 4. Give preference to one another (Romans 12:10).
 5. Regard one another as more important than yourself (Philippians 2:3).
 6. Be of the same mind toward one another (Romans 12:16; 15:5).
 7. Do not judge one another (Romans 14:13).
 8. Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 9. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
 10. Admonish one another (Romans 15:14).
 11. Be considerate to one another (1 Corinthians 11:33).
 12. Have the same care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25).
 13. Serve one another (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10).
 14. Tolerate one another (Ephesians 4:2) (Colossians 3:13-'bear with one another').

15. Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32).
16. Be subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5).
17. Speak truth to one another (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9).
18. Comfort one another with the word of God (1 Thessalonians 4:18) (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25-exhort).
19. Do good to one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
20. Do not speak against one another (James 4:11).
21. Do not complain against one another (James 5:9; 1 Peter 4:9).
22. Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16).
23. Pray for one another (James 5:16).