

# Essentials of Discipleship

## Chapter 9 – Christian Fellowship

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**Resource:** Essentials of Discipleship by Francis Cosgrove published by Roper Press in 1988.

*This short 12 chapter book outlines eleven essentials of what a disciple of Jesus Christ is and how each disciple should become a disciple-making disciple. These study guides offer an outline of the book with some questions to be used in reviewing and discussing the content. Each student will need to obtain and read the book as well. After the initial chapters titled: What is a Disciple? & The Disciple is a Learner; the author reviews the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is the umbrella for the remaining nine essentials or characteristics of a disciple.*

Introduction – EOD #8: A disciple fellowships regularly with other believers displaying love and unity.

### A. Summary (From Chapter 1):

Similar to the preceding essential of discipleship, this chapter emphasizes the essential of maintaining fellowship with other believers. Cosgrove says that Christians are to associate with other believers and show unity with all believers, not just those in your own local church fellowship. 1 John 1:3 and Ephesians 4:3 affirm this privilege and responsibility. The Body of Christ already has an eternal spiritual unity but it is a challenge for us to maintain unity on a daily basis. This unity moves forward the cause or mission of Christ and His Church.

### B. Scriptures:

1. John 17:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acts 2:44-47 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Acts 4:31-33 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ephesians 4:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hebrews 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 1 John 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Introductory Points – Cosgrove says:

1. Christian fellowship is vitally related to the local church (the local community of believers).
2. Some get their fellowship in their local church while others also seek fellowship in other arenas.
3. Christian fellowship is an absolute necessity in life.
4. Fellowship with Christ through word and prayer is great but not enough. People are necessary.

### I. The Meaning of the word Fellowship

1. Fellowship in Greek is “koinonia” which means “sharing in something with someone”
2. Here is what theologian John Stott said about koinonia or what he called “commonness”:
  - a. What is the fundamental meaning? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. In particular, we share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Fellowship is what we share in together and what we share \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. We share the Gospel out together but we also share our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. What are the three ways we have koinonia or fellowship?
    1. (in together) \_\_\_\_\_
    2. (out together) \_\_\_\_\_
    3. (with one another) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is 2 Corinthians 1:4 so important as we share our personal and community walk with Jesus?
4. How is God glorified when believers display love and unity? (Hint = describe our witness and posture before God).

- II. The Basis of Christian Fellowship
1. What is the source of fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord.
  2. Is it possible for us to have the kind of fellowship that the Apostle John had with Jesus?
  3. Our personal relationship with Jesus is the basis for our fellowship with each other in the Body of Christ.
  4. So it is also true that it is impossible for Christians to have true fellowship with those who \_\_\_\_\_ know \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. What are the two necessities to have true biblical fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil 2:1-2)
  6. Likewise, the control of the \_\_\_\_\_ is necessary for true fellowship. Why?
  7. What is the new commandment Jesus gave us? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:34-35)

III. Three Basic Elements of Biblical Fellowship:

- A. #1 – Fellowship must include \_\_\_\_\_ to grow.
- B. #2 – Fellowship must involve \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ with one another.
  1. Fellowship Groups allow one to share personal needs and the victories and joys of submission and obedience to the word of God.
  2. The victories shared are the ways God offered His provisions to meet our needs.
  3. Joy comes when you can be part of a relationship or a group when you can openly and honestly discuss what Jesus as Lord and Savior means to you in your daily experiences.
- C. #3 – Fellowship must \_\_\_\_\_ all those present to \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Cosgrove says that a natural outgrowth should be to share \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Evangelism training helps but one can certainly share their love for Jesus even as a new believer.
- D. Biblical Fellowship Illustrated
  1. Why is the story of Jesus meeting two men on the way to Emmaus after his resurrection a great illustration of Christian fellowship?
- E. Misconceptions about Fellowship  
 The three basic elements (Growth, Sharing Jesus, and Outreach) must be present for an event to be called a Biblical fellowship. If these are not present, the author says it is best to call that gathering a \_\_\_\_\_. You cannot expect to grow spiritually if the group is not a true Christian fellowship.

IV. The results of Biblical Fellowship

- A. What are the three results of real fellowship?  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and Accountability.
  1. What is the encouragement we get in 1 Chronicles 28:20?
  2. Why is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 the best model for sending out missionaries to a mission work?
  3. Explain what we learn in Proverbs 13:20 as it relates to Biblical fellowship.

V. Conclusion -

If fellowship is Christ-centered and is an integral part of our life, it should motivate us to reach out to those who do not yet know Christ personally. There are many benefits to the healthy fellowship with other like-minded believers in Christ.

**TMS D9 – BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE – Give Generously for Chapter 9 (Proverb 3:9-10)**