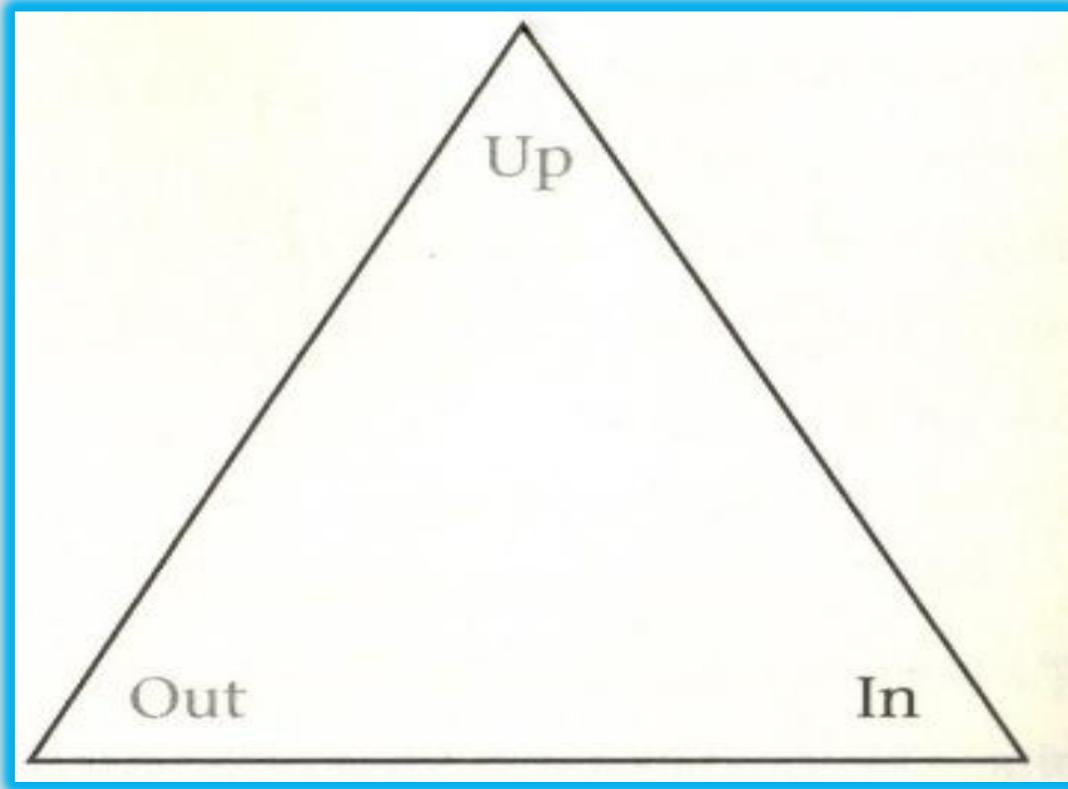


- Communion; (FELLOWSHIP)



- **UP (Walking with God)**

- Both Enoch and Noah ‘walked with God’ (Genesis 5:24; 6:9). They didn’t just sit, kneel or stand with God (the kind of actions we would often associate with spending time with God), but they were also in communion with God when doing something else. (BiOY)
- The Bible has a great deal to say about walking with God. It is how you were intended to live. God’s desire for you is that you walk humbly in a relationship with him (Micah 6:8). This is what Jesus has made possible – for you to walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:6). You may stumble from time to time, but one day you will walk with him, “dressed in white” (Revelation 3:4). (BiOY)

- **IN (Walking with One Another)**

- Acts 2:42-47 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **ESV**

- **Acts 2:42-47** They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.
- 43 Everyone around was in awe — all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! 44 And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. 45 They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.
- **46 They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, 47 as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw.** Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved. **Message**

- **Fellowship**

- — (1.) With God, consisting in the knowledge of his will (Job 22:21; John 17:3); agreement with his designs (Amos 3:2); mutual affection (Rom 8:38,39); enjoyment of his presence (Ps 4:6); conformity to his image (1 John 2:6; 1:6); and participation of his felicity (1 John 1:3,4; Eph 3:14-21).
- (2.) Of saints with one another, **in duties** (Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:1; 1 Thess 5:17,18); **in ordinances** (Heb 10:25; Acts 2:46); **in grace, love, joy, etc.** (Mal 3:16; 2 Cor 8:4); **mutual interest, spiritual and temporal** (Rom 12:4,13; Heb 13:16); **in sufferings** (Rom 15:1,2; Gal 6:1,2; Rom 12:15; **and in glory** (Rev 7:9).
- (from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

• Bible discussion Guide – Fellowship

1. What thoughts and images come to mind when you think of the word fellowship?
2. Discuss what you consider to be the best definition for the word fellowship. Within the body of Christ, does it mean the same as the word unity? Is it possible to have fellowship without unity? Is it possible to have unity without fellowship?
3. Explore the following verses to find the biblical view of fellowship. Take a fresh look at each passage, searching especially for **(a) God's commands and standards to keep, (b) someone's example to learn from, (c) a promise from God to believe, (d) a warning to heed, or (e) a challenge to face.**
 - Ps 133
 - Matt 18:15-20
 - John 17:20-23
 - Acts 2:42-47
 - Rom 15:7
 - 2 Cor 6:14-18
 - Phil 3:10
 - 1 John 1
4. What vital, fundamental principles can you see in these passages (principles which are consistent with other Scriptures you know)?
5. Finally, answer these questions, especially in light of what you've observed in the passages above: **(a) What does God want me to understand most about Himself? (b) What does God want me to understand most about others? (c) What does God want me to understand most about myself? And in light of all this, what would He have me do?**

- 4 Essentials of a Healthy Church
 - Worship
 - Nurture
 - Fellowship
 - Outreach
- 4 Consistencies in relationship to fellowship:
 - Consistent consideration of the Word
 - Consistent fellowship together
 - Consistent meals together (especially partaking of the “Lord’s Supper”)
 - Consistent prayer together
- Maybe we could think of it like this:
 - If worship is our love shown to God,
 - and nurture is our love for learning and growing in his word,
 - then fellowship is our love for each other, modeled on God’s love for us.

- In order to be focused you first have to acknowledge your present position.



- What is the big deal with fellowship?

- Christianity is a unique religion in that it is not a completely individualized religion.
 - Remember we are created in the image of God and He isn't alone!
- The Epistles are letters written to groups of people, who it appears, seem to have some consistency of being together which each other.
- Romans 12:10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
- Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!
- Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.
- Romans 15:14 I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.
- Ephesians 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.
- Ephesians 5:21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- Colossians 3:12-17 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.
- 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.
- Hebrews 10:24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.
- James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
- 1 Peter 1:22 You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.
- 1 Peter 4:8-11 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.
10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.
- 1 Peter 3:8-10 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude. 9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it.

- So do we need the Church Anymore?
 - Do you need to come to church to hear good preaching?
 - Do you need to come to church for good praise and worship music?
 - Do you need to come to church for fellowship?
- Churches exist for corporate worship, to sing songs and praises together. Churches exist to teach each other and help them to grow. And importantly, churches exist so that members can fellowship, encourage, assist and sustain each other, especially in difficult times.

