



Owasso First Assembly

Pastor Bruce McCarty

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The most undervalued component of church life: The essential nature of a house of connection

Vault verse for this series: Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT) 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.*

1. God's word encourages **faithful participation with other believers.**
2. **The early church came together daily.**

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT) ⁴² *All the believers **devoted** themselves to the apostles' **teaching**, and to **fellowship**, and to **sharing** in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to **prayer**.* ⁴³ *A **deep sense of awe** came over them all, and the apostles performed many **miraculous signs and wonders**.* ⁴⁴ *And **all the believers** met together in **one place** and **shared everything they had**.* ⁴⁵ *They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.* ⁴⁶ *They **worshiped together at the Temple each day**, **met in homes for the Lord's Supper**, and shared their meals with **great joy and generosity**—⁴⁷ *all the while **praising God** and **enjoying the goodwill of all the people**. And **each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved**.**

3. Fellowship inspires, encourages, equips, and promotes continual personal development.
4. Fellowship is transformative and profound.
5. Fellowship is the engine that drives a church.
6. Fellowship nourishes the spirit.
7. Fellowship enhances success in ministry.
8. Fellowship provides comfort in sorrow.
9. Fellowship is partnership, encouragement, compassion, and connection as we glorify God together.

1. There are many examples of fellowship in the Bible

John 13 Romans 12 1 Cor 12

1. **David and Jonathan.** 1 Samuel 18
2. **Ruth and Naomi.**
3. **Nehemiah and the people of Isreal.** Neh 4:6
4. **Jesus and the disciples.** John 13
5. **Paul and his companions.** At least 8 companions and coworkers, at least 8 friends with dozens of others, including at least 4 opponents and challengers.

2. There are several key elements in developing fellowship

1. Acceptance.
2. Unity.
3. Honesty and transparency.
4. Humility.
5. Compassion.
6. Generosity.
7. Encouragement.
8. Loyalty.

3. There are numerous challenges to biblical fellowship

1. Differences in opinions, values, and preferences.
2. Lack of trust.
3. Miscommunication.
4. Lack of commitment.
5. External pressures.

4. There are abundant benefits to biblical fellowship

1. Harmony in the church. Rom 12:16; 14:19; 15:5; 1Cor 1:10; 12:25; 2Cor 13:11; Col 3:14
2. Growth in the body.
3. Improved witness to the world.
4. Encouragement for the discouraged.
5. Resilience during challenges.
6. Joy at all times.

Keys to developing biblical fellowship in your life.

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| 1. Make God your foundation. | 5. Participate enthusiastically. |
| 2. Take responsibility personally. | 6. Don't assume the worst in others but believe the best. |
| 3. Take initiative. | |
| 4. Make yourself available. | |

Romans 12:9–21 (NLT) ⁹ *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.* ¹¹ ¹³ *When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.* ¹⁵ *Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.* 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!* ¹⁷ *Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.* ¹⁸ *Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.* ²¹ *Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*