

“Devoted to the Fellowship”

Acts 2:42

- Definitions:
 - Devoted: To be steadfastly attentive to, to give unremitting care to a thing.
 - The Fellowship: Community; joint participation; intimacy; a share which one has in anything

- Fellowship describes a oneness between people. A common bond
 - Ex. Gun club, saddle club, home school co-op, sports teams, farmers, teachers, etc.

- No ‘common’ bond
 - Fellowship with Christ
 - 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor 1:9; Phil 2:1 (our fellowship is with Christ)
 - He is the head – because of Him are we called together in one “body” (1 Cor 12; Ephesians 2:19-22; Col 1:18)
 - This is why the fellowship is marked with awe, unity and joy (Acts 2:43-47)

 - Fellowship with one another
 - Church (*in Matt 16:18, etc.*) = ekklesia: the *gathering* of the *called out*.
 - Gathering for worship
 - Acts 20:7
 - The writings of the early church fathers confirm that the church continued to meet on the first day of the week for worship

- Gathering for life
 - This fellowship must include gathering for worship...but it goes beyond that
 - Notice the oneness and intimacy that the word fellowship communicates
 - Notice the description of their life together in the following verses
 - *We can get a sense of this oneness/intimacy in some of Paul's letters (closings, etc)
 - Consider the "one another" commands
 - Rom 12:10 – love
 - Rom 15:5 – live in harmony with
 - Rom 15:14 – instruct
 - Gal 5:13 – serve
 - Eph 4:2 – bear with
 - Eph 4:25 – speak the truth to
 - Eph 4:32 – Be kind to, tenderhearted with, and forgive
 - Eph 5:21 – submit to
 - Col 3:16 – teaching, admonishing
 - 1 Thess 4:18 – encourage
 - 1 Thess 5:11 – build up
 - Heb 3:13 – exhort
 - Heb 10:24 – spur on to love and good works
 - James 5:16 – confess sins to, pray for
 - 1 Peter 4:9 – show hospitality to

I have often heard it said, I don't need to go to church to be a Christian. I can worship God at the game or in the tree stand.

That is true. We are able to, and must, worship God, wherever we are. However, to use that truth, as some meager excuse to avoid the fellowship, or the gathering, is the same way that Satan has been twisting the scriptures for years.

If you are able to continue avoiding the fellowship, you may do well to consider if you are in the faith. Under the same head, which is Christ.

If you are, and you find yourself pulling away from the fellowship, you will not grow like you ought and you will struggle with your sin way more than you need.

This is why Heb 10:25

We need the church!