



WE NEED EACH OTHER--50 YEARS AS
THE CEFC FAMILY
SELECTED SCRIPTURES
SEPTEMBER 27 & OCTOBER 4, 2020
DR. ANDREW SCHWENK

I. Introduction

Our fellowship is based on the fact that the church is profoundly relational—not in just knowing who people are but knowing peoples’ hearts too.

II. Key Marks of Christian Fellowship

1. Fellowship’s Foundation is salvation (John 1:3; 14:23; 17:11; 1st Cor. 6:17; 1st Thess. 4:9)
2. Fellowship’s essence—how does it work? (Acts 2:42-46; Rom. 1:11-12)
3. Fellowship’s visible symbol—the Lord’s Table (1st Cor. 10:16-17; 11:17-34)

4. Fellowship’s pitfall—SIN (Matt. 18:15-20; 1st Cor. 11:27, 30))
5. Fellowship—our reputation (Psalm 119; 2nd Cor. 12:20; 13:2)
6. Fellowship—our responsibility (2nd Cor. 8:4-5 (NIV), 1st Cor. 12:4-7)
7. Fellowship—the “one anothers” (John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:10; 15:7; Col. 3:13; James 5:9; 1st Pet. 4:8)

III. Conclusion

Imagine the effectiveness of the healthy church’s testimony when our local community sees Christ in us? We are not a collection of perfect people. Instead, and better, we are a fellowship of saved sinners, working as one for the glory of God and the welfare of those around us. May the CEFC fellowship be a strong testimony to the world by our love for one another, our pursuit of holiness, our humility, and our fellowship for many years to come for the glory of God alone!



CEFC Sermon-Based Growth Group

Week: September 27, 2020

Title: We Need Each Other—50 years
as the CEFC family (Part 1 and 2)

Text: Selected Scriptures

Kick Starters...

1. Share a brief story of a close friend who you met through the church?
2. How has your overall life experience been made better or stronger through knowing other Christians closely in your life?

Entertain the text

3. Read the text out loud and discuss/list/highlight any significant words or observations. Make notes in your Bible to help you recall anything important to revisit or pray over. Use cross-Scripture texts as is helpful.

Engage the text

4. What do we see among Christians today in regard to the commitment it takes to have strong, deep fellowship with others? Why are so many struggling with this?

5. The culture wants *religion* that is 'private, convenient, no accountability, no commitments'. Why do we see so many choosing a church 'they like' or 'they want' for the sake of comfort? (Hint: Self-sacrifice is not an easily embraced behavior.)
6. What is the foundation of our fellowship? (see John 1:3, 1st Cor. 6:17; 1st Thess. 4:9; 1st John 4:9). Are we ever out of fellowship with God?
7. What is the essence of the church's fellowship? (see Acts 2:38-45) Does the church exist to us, to allow us to 'get something out of it', is that the true Gospel?
8. The visible symbol of our fellowship (see 1st Cor. 10:16-17) is best demonstrated through the Lord's Table. It's not a virtual thing. Why? (Think: One Body, One Lord, Unity in Christ)
9. Read together, Eph. 4:15-16. Whose life has bound us together in spiritual love and spiritual life? How does that affect our understanding of our commitment to the fellowship we share in the church?

END OF WEEK 1's QUESTIONS HERE

BEGIN WEEK 2's QUESTIONS HERE

10. Our faith is NOT a spectator sport. Read Heb. 10:24-25 together. How does that speak directly to our commitment regarding our shared fellowship?
11. Our greatest desire as human beings is relationship. We congregate toward others who share our likes, dislikes, and experiences so we can be a part of something with them. How does that help us appreciate why the greatest, richest, deepest, and widest of all fellowships is found in the company of others who are God's adopted children?
12. When sin happens (and it will, see Matthew 18:15), how does the reality of sin create a 'pitfall' within our shared fellowship?
13. How do the realities of pride, lust materialism, ego, etc. fuel sin's impact on the fellowship we share?
14. God wants us to be moving toward more holiness within our lives (Lev 11:44-45; 1st Pet. 1:16). How does our reputation among others reflect that personal pursuit?
15. Why is the commitment to holding one another accountable to our Savior's example in loving grace, aka 'church discipline' so important (see 2nd Cor. 7:1)?
16. How does the reality of ongoing sin in our lives affect our witness to the unsaved world?
17. Responsibility in fellowship means serving our collective fellowship within the life of our church family (see 2nd Cor. 8:4-5). How are you personally doing that (serving) within the CEFC family?
18. The understanding of community means fulfilling the 'one anothers' from Scripture. Discuss together how the following are visible at CEFC:
 - Love (John 13:34; 1st Pet. 4:8)
 - Unity (1st Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:7)
 - Humility (John 13:14-15; Phil 2:5, 7)
 - Encouragement (1st Thess. 4:18; Rom. 15:4)

Execute the text

19. Read John 17:23 together. Pray that the world will know we are Christians by our love for one another. That is when our godliness is most easily on display.