

Rivers of Life Church – 1st Steps of Faith

Lesson 3 – Church-life and Fellowship

Why Is Church-life & Fellowship Important?

1. I receive a sense of belonging with God's family
 - a) The Scriptures refer to Christians as 'brothers & sisters' in Christ because we belong to the same Heavenly Father.
 - Eph 2:19 (NLT)
 - b) You cannot relate properly to Jesus without being rightly connected to His people.
 - All Christians belong to the global, worldwide body of Christ. But we must belong to and be connected to a specific local church where you attend regularly.
2. I need the encouragement from other believers to grow spiritually.
 - Although we must all have a personal living and loving relationship with God, our growth can't be optimized without the input of and interaction with fellow believers. We all need the support of other Christians to maximize our growth potential.
 - Heb 10:24-25 (NLT)
3. I need accountability to grow spiritually.
 - Prov 27:17 (NLT)
 - Interaction with fellow believers in a local church will help us 'sharpen' one another spiritually. It helps us realize our own need for other people and that we really can't become our best for Jesus just by ourselves.

4. I have an obligation & responsibility to serve other believers.

- When I become a Christian, God deposited certain spiritual gifts and abilities within me, so that I can contribute and be a blessing to His church.
- 1 Pet 4:10 (TNIV) – Our God-given gifts are given so that we can serve and bless other believers.
- Rom 12:4-6 (TNIV)
- Some “one another” commands in the New Testament
 - a) Rom 12:10 (TNIV) – Love and honour
 - b) Rom 15:7 (TNIV) – Accept
 - c) Gal 5:13 (TNIV) – Serve
 - d) Eph 4:2 (NLT) – Make allowances
 - e) Eph 4:32 (TNIV) – Be kind and forgiving
 - f) Eph 5:21 (TNIV) – Submit
 - g) 1 Thess 5:15 (TNIV) – Don’t pay back

5. The fellowship of believers is a living witness to the world of the reality of Jesus.

- John 13:35 (NLT)

Conclusion

- Receive God’s grace
- Release God’s grace