

“Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church:
 The Power and Grace of Fellowship and Community”
 1 John 1:3-4 & 1 John 4:19-5:3; 1 Peter 1:18-19 & 22-23

- 1 John 1:3-4 & 4:19-5:3 & 1 Peter 1:18-19 & 22-23
 - If we have fellowship (*Koinonia*) with God we also have fellowship with those in Christ, both universally and locally. The evidence of having fellowship with God is seen in our love/fellowship with one another, namely, obedience to God’s Word.
 - This unique fellowship (with God and one another) was bought by the blood of Christ. Or another way to say it, Jesus died so we can have Christian fellowship, both universally and locally (these are eternal relationships).
 - The brother/sister distinction is an eternal distinction (unlike, Mom, Dad, Husband, Wife, Son or Daughter, Friend), therefore, our top priority is working on the eternal/spiritual dynamic of all relationships, not the temporal dynamic.
 - Christian fellowship/community (love for one another) is expressed in four primary ways:
 - Through *WORDS*: Christ died to give me preaching/teaching (2 Timothy 4:1-5); Christ died to give me regular encouragement (Ephesians 4:25 & 29); and loving rebuke (Proverbs 27:5-6).
 - Through *SERVANTHOOD*: Christ died so that I can serve a local body of believers by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) and so that I can be served by a local body for my humility and sanctification (1 Peter 4:10-11).
 - Through *FIGHTING SIN*: Christ died so that I can be victorious over sin and be an encouragement to my brothers/sisters as they participate in my killing of sin (Romans 6:11-14; Romans 8:12-13).
 - Through *PRAYER*: Christ died so that we can pray for one another and with one another (Colossians 4:12-13). Praying together is a normative mark of Christianity. (Acts 2:42, 4:24 & 31, 6:6, 12:5, 13:3, 20:36).
 - Every action that I’m taking counts for eternity. My actions are either strengthening someone’s faith or weakening someone’s faith by my commitment to fellowship/community (Hebrews 10:32-36 & 39; Hebrews 11:25-26). *The worst we could endure for Christ is more valuable than the best of the world.*
 - Without Christian fellowship I cannot obey most of the Bible....
- 1. Love one Another (Romans 12:10) 2. Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16) 3. Welcome one another (Romans 15:7) 4. Instruct one another (Romans 15:14) 5. Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25) 6. Serve one another (Galatians 5:13) 7. Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2) 8. Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2) 9. Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32) 10. Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32) 11. Sing praises with one another (Colossians 3:16) 12. Regard one another more important than oneself (Philippians 2:3) 13. Speak truth to one another (Colossians 3:9) 14. Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18) 15. Seek good for one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15) 16. Stir up one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24) 17. Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16) 18. Pray for one another (James 5:16) 19. Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9) 20. Be humble toward one another (1 Peter 5:5).
- Christian fellowship/community should never be formal, it is familial. This is an emotional, physical, and spiritual commitment. Christlikeness will not be achieved without Christian fellowship (Colossians 1:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-16). This is where Christianity is both *seen, proved, and matured*.

Announcements:

***Members Meeting:** We will be having a business meeting immediately following the worship service TONIGHT! If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for that meeting. We anticipate that it should last approximately 30 minutes.

***Volunteers:** We have a wonderful opportunity for our church members to get involved in serving our church body in the CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!

***Donations:** We will be collecting donations for Vertical 196 over the next few weeks. They are in need of the following items: men's medium boxers, regular coffee, powdered drink mixes, hard candy, toilet bowl cleaner, dessert plates, 12 oz plastic cups, 12 oz paper coffee cups.

***Easter and Communion:** Our Easter service will be NEXT Sunday, April 4th! Easter is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to come to church with you! We will also be partaking of communion together during the Easter Worship Service!

***Baptism:** Our next baptism service is Sunday, April 18th. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about being baptized, please talk to Pastor Jeremy, Pastor Joel, or Elder Richard.