

The Sabbath – A Very Special Day
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 11, 2007

Why are you here today?

- For the potluck?
- Because the Torah says you should be here?
- To learn?
- To fellowship?
- To avoid working?
- Because you don't have anything else to do?

Last week, as we were finishing up the study of Ecclesiastes, we read:

- **Ecclesiastes 10:**
 - 10 **If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge,** Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.
 - If you have ever tried to cut anything with dull scissors or with a dull ax, you really know the literal meaning of this verse
 - But it also has a secondary meaning about the Sabbath
 - Sabbath is intended to keep the mind sharp
 - If you don't keep the mind sharp, by continuous studying, you will continue to struggle
- **Proverbs 27:**
 - 17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.
 - One person can help another to have a sharper mind and more knowledge of wisdom and of the Bible
- **Genesis 1:**
 - 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
 - 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- **Genesis 2:**
 - 18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

And we all know it was downhill from there.

God may have been lonely, too. If He knew what it was like to be lonely, that would explain why He created us to have relationships with other human beings.

- **Hebrews 10:**
 - 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

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- 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Acts 16:**
 - 1 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.
 - 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.
 - 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.
 - 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.
 - 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.
 - How can the numbers increase if people forsake the assembling of ourselves together?

Fellowship = Greek word Strong's 2842 – koinonia = communion – willing to communicate – partnership – joined together for a purpose

- Root word = koinonos = partner, partaker, companion, associate

Acts 2:

- 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 1:

- 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:

- 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

2 Corinthians 6:

- 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 8:

- 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

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Galatians 2:

- 9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Ephesians 3:

- 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 5:

- 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Philippians 1:

- 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Philippians 2:

- 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

Philippians 3:

- 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

1 John 1:

- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:

- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

A shared relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with others

1 Corinthians 12:

- 1 ¶ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

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- 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
- 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
- 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
- 12 ¶ For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
 - A “body” cannot function if it is not all together
- 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
 - The foot enables the body to move forward
 - The hand enables the body to write, to point, to gesture
- 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
 - The ear enables the body to receive spoken information
 - The eye enables the body to receive visual information
- 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?
 - The nose enables the body to receive odorous information
 - To tell if milk is bad
 - Or to tell if roses are good
- 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
- 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
- 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

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- 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
 - If a member of the body (the church) chooses to not participate, the entire body suffers
- 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
 - Those members who are newest to an understanding of the Bible challenge those who know the most
 - They bring a freshness to our understanding
 - They open our minds to new thinking
- 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,
 - Those members with less visible gifts contribute in great ways
 - Maybe by providing good food
 - Maybe by lifting our spirits
- 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
- 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
 - And show that care personally
 - Each Sabbath
- 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
 - By sharing your news – good or bad

Hebrews 13.

- 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Come to give – not just to get
What can I do to help other people?

The Bible says much about fellowship – our relationships with one another. A few examples:

John 13:

- 14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
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- 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one

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another."

John 15:

- 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
-
- 17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 12:

- 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
-
- 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
-
- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Romans 15:

- 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,
-
- 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.
-
- 14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Galatians 6:

- 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:

- 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Heb 10:

- 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
- 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 5:

- 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may

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be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

1 Peter 3:

- 8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

1 Peter 4:

- 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
- 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 5:

- 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

1 John 1:

- 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 3:

- 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
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- 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

1 John 4:

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
-
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

2 John 1:

- 5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

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Why are you here today?

- For the potluck?
 - You can eat at home
- Because the Torah says you should be here?
 - The commandment is to keep the Sabbath Holy
 - You can do that anywhere
- To learn?
 - You can study at home
- To fellowship?
 - You can do that during the week
- To avoid working?
 - You can do that at home
- Because you don't have anything else to do?
 - You could find something to do

How about?

- For the fellowship of learning each others' challenges and joys
 - You can't understand them without talking with them
 - To understand one another's joys
 - Understanding comes from open communication
 - To understand one another's problems
 - To listen to each other's stories
 - To share one another's experiences
- To learn from the elders
 - Not the Elders – capital "E"
 - To learn from those who know more about the Bible than you
- To teach the young in The Way
 - To help those who are new to understanding the Bible
- To exhort one another
 - To encourage and to correct as a unit
 - We are created to need each other!

If you think you are only coming to assemble together on the Sabbath to learn, you are really missing the point. We need each other. And God needs us to work together. We can only do it all together – as a team – by assembling together on the Sabbath!