**Why We Fellowship**

August 14th, 2016

Kids take time. Much, much, much time. Even just as babies our children demand a huge amount of time from us just between being fed, being changed, being taught how to crawl, how to walk, & how to talk. As parents we must take the time to be parents, not just because it’s our job or it makes things easier on us in the long run, but because our kids ***need*** us. Our children demand our time because they ***need*** to be taken care of, ***need*** to be comforted, ***need*** our help to live, and ***need*** the feeling that we are willing to take the time to be with them.

Madison needs this arguably needs this the most of our kids– she’s old enough to be aware that quality time is one of her love languages, and that was one element that was missing from our relationship for the nearly our first two years as I was either gone on military missions, struggling for 18 hours a day to learn a new job or caught up in the excitement of preaching school. Now with little brothers it’s become even more important to intentionally take the time to be with her to fulfill her need from us to know she’s important, valuable, & we love her. Time means more to her than probably we realize, and it’s worth taking.

When it comes to us as a church body I’m obviously not saying we need to parent each other, but yet the word koinōnia, the Greek word for fellowship, I believe is more akin to the needs of a child than to just friendship. Christian fellowship isn’t just coffee & doughnuts, or even just assembling for worshiping together. I believe if we take this concept seriously we would fellowship like we needed each other, because we do. We need each other. You see, to fellowship in good times when we’re both walking well in Christ is so important because we will need each other when it’s not good times, when we stumble, when the world happens to us. Fellowship is so much more than the social club get-togethers the church is sometimes accused of being like. True fellowship is a commitment, an investment in each other, and a willingness to be like Christ to, for, & beside each other through all of life. True fellowship isn’t always “fun,” but we need true fellowship from each other. Are you willing to really fellowship as Christ does with you for & with the person next to you? Grace to you.

**Philippians 2: Offering**

August 14, 2016

Chapter 1 Paul encouraged us against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conflicts.

Now Paul turns to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conflicts.

**Philippians 2:1-11**

* Four Principles
  + Maintain the same \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Be unified in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Regard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as more important
  + Look out for the interest of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Why are these principles worth maintaining? What’s our motivation to keep them?

**Philippians 2:12-18**

* How is our conduct reflective of our responsibility to Christ?
* How are we an offering?

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