

**CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE SEMINARS
(C.L.A.S.S.)**

**CLASS 201: SESSION 4
*STUDENT SYLLABUS***

**THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP
A T.E.A.M. Practice of Ministry and Mission**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other."

Heb. 10:25 (GN)

The L.I.F.E. Development Track

OF THE

RESEDA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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PURPOSE OF C.L.A.S.S. 201

“...that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God’s will for you.”
Colossians 4:12b

“We are not meant to remain as children...but to grow up in every way into Christ...”
Ephesians 4:14-15.

The Biblical Significance of Fellowship

1. **It is evidence of our _____.** *“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.” I John 3:14*
2. **It is a _____ to Christ.** *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42*
3. **It is the _____ of the saints who are partakers in life of the one Body.**
“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” I Cor. 12:12-13

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:

I CORINTHIANS 12

Fellowship is a _____ established for the common good based on the co-dependent needs of each individual member.

“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many...But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” I Cor. 12:18-20

ROMANS 12

Fellowship is the _____ relationships through which members share with one another their spiritual gifts

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:4-5

EPHESIANS 2

Fellowship is relationship of _____ design through which members experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

“In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Eph. 2:21-22

The T.E.A.M. Principle of Fellowship

Fellowship is based on a principle that can be described as T.E.A.M. which stands for Together Each Achieves More.

The T.E.A.M. Principle of fellowship enables each member to participate in all five purposes of the church.

“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.” 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” I Cor. 12:21-22

THE MEANING OF FELLOWSHIP

The Concept

To be in _____ with the Body.

To take part in the ministry _____ of the Body

To be **relationally** _____ for ministry and support

The Contrast

We are commanded to be a friend to sinners, but not fellowship their sin, therefore, fellowship is more being associated.

TWO PRIMARY PURPOSES OF FELLOWSHIP

The first primary purpose of fellowship is the _____ (edifying) of the Church Body through the ministry its parts (ministry groupings).

“...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph. 4:16

The second primary purpose for connecting relationally is _____.

...For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to

give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor 4:6

THE TWO LEVELS OF CHURCH AFFILIATION

- **The Crowd Level of _____ and _____.**
 - Unintentional /coincidental fellowship
 - Large group assembly only
- **The Congregational Level of _____ and _____.**
 - Intentional fellowship
 - Personal ministry/ Small groups meetings

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. **I _____ IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.** *"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong to the family of believers.**" Gal. 6:10.*

"The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord."

Dr.Ray Ortland

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian."* Eph. 2:19 (LB)

*"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others!"* Rom. 12:5

2. **I NEED _____ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.**
"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds." Heb. 10:24 (Ph)

3. **I NEED _____ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY**
"Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break." Eccl. 4:9-10,12 (GN)

4. **CHRIST IS _____ WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.**
*"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"*Matt 18:20 (GN)

"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron." Pr. 27:17 (GN)

"Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin." Heb. 3:13 (JB)

*"Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should **restore** him gently ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:1-2*

5. THERE IS _____ WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matt. 18:19 (GN)

6. FELLOWSHIP IS A _____ TO THE WORLD.

(Jesus) "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind .. so the world will believe you sent me." John 17:21(LB)

7. I AM _____ TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN.

"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other ..." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

*There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a **necessary part of it.**" 1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)*

THE MINISTRY PRACTICES OF FELLOWSHIP

The "One Anothers" of Fellowship

(Partial List)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Serve one another | Gal. 5:13 |
| Accept one another | Rom 15:7 |
| Forgive one another | Col. 3:13 |
| Greet one another | Rom. 16:16 |
| Bear one another's burdens | Gal. 6:2 |
| Be devoted to one another | Rom. 12:10 |
| Honor one another | Rom. 12:10 |
| Teach one another | Rom 15:14 |
| Submit to one another | Eph. 5:21 |
| Encourage one another | 1 Thess. 5:11 |

Fellowship is the means by the church expands throughout the world and remains a _____ relationship.

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO BE A PART OF A _____ .

*"(They met) day after day, in the **Temple courts** and from **house to house**." Acts 5:42*

THREE ESSENTIALS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. Becoming personally _____ to Christ
2. Being spiritually _____ to serve
3. Being relationally _____ to saints

TEN VALUES OF FELLOWSHIP?

1. F = _____
2. E = _____
3. L = _____
4. L = _____
5. O = _____
6. W = _____
7. S = _____
8. H = _____
9. I = _____
10. P = _____

FELLOWSHIP AND THE FACTS

- Fellowship is established through a small group relationship whether it is intentionally designed or coincidentally developed.
- Members cannot grow spiritually without being relationally connected
- Weak Christians have weak relationships and strong Christians have strong relationships with believers.
- Coincidental group relationships can possess health but tends to be unholistic in purpose. Intentionally designed small groups can be dynamic and holistic.

FOUR COMPONENTS OF HOLISTIC FELLOWSHIP

1. The _____ relationships
2. Experiencing the _____ of God
3. Exercise of _____ in ministry
4. Outreach to the _____.

THE INTENTIONAL DESIGN OF OUR FELLOWSHIP: SMALL GROUPS

Purposeful Meeting Agenda (90 minutes)

- Welcome (20) - Get acquainted
- Worship (20) - expressing devotion
- Worship (40) – Life discussions of the Word
- Witness (10) – encouraging outreach to others

Purpose Ministry Schedule

- Quarterly fellowship – cultivating relationship
- Quarterly ministry project – serving the body
- Quarterly mission project – serving the community

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

STEP ONE: _____

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: _____

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

STEP THREE: _____

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or resolution. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing.

"Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them." Ps. 76:11

STEP FOUR: _____

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. A single slip unwinds many turns at first. Continuity and success at the start is essential. Never be swayed by "just this once". The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 3 to 4 weeks (doing it daily) for it to become a part of your life.

IT TAKES _____ TO _____ REPETITIONS TO LEARN SOMETHING!

STEP FIVE: _____

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit - DO IT THEN! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so whenever you feel inclined to perform your new habit, do so!

STEP SIX: _____

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

"Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to ... helpful deeds and noble activities." Heb. 1:25 (Amp)

"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up." Eccl. 4:9-10 (GN)

STEP SEVEN: _____

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to

develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ so he will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

*"For the Spirit of God has given us ... fills us with power, love, and **self-control**." 2 Tim. 1:7
(GN)*

*"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you **the will and the power** to achieve his purpose."
Phil. 2:13 (Ph)*

RESEDA'S MATURITY VISION

We dream of _____ members who have committed themselves to the Maturity Covenant: Having a daily time with God, giving a weekly tithe to God, and participating in a weekly team (small group) for God.

We dream of a network of _____ small groups within our church providing support, encouragement and acceptability to our members as they seek to grow in Christlikeness. These groups will be led by small group leaders who are loving shepherds of people, growing in Christlike Character, trained in small group dynamics and grounded in the basic beliefs of our faith.

We dream of a life Development Institute that implements the philosophy of our Life Development Process. We intend to offer Bible studies, topical seminars and skill development classes every day and night of the week and in annual conferences. _____ people will have completed the basic diploma in this institute: a place for building up believers and producing doers of the word.

We dream of a faculty of _____ gifted teachers, equipped with the vision, character, skills, knowledge and expertise to feed the flock in our church. We intend to train our teachers to be experts in areas such as doctrine, Bible books, Biblical languages and Christian growth. We dream of the day that it can be said, "The best Bible teachers in our brotherhood are the staff of teachers at Reseda church."

We dream of an age-appropriate Life Development Process that leads our children and youth to fall in love with the Lord for a lifetime: to commit themselves to the fellowship of the church, mature spiritually, discover their shape for ministry and understand their life mission in the world.

We dream of the Reseda church as a model of Christian education that focuses on life change. We intend to make available resources, tools and training to congregations of the Lord's church worldwide.

We dream of cooperating with Christian seminaries and universities in establishing a church based training program for ministerial students from our church and from around the world. We intend to train leadership for the 21st century church in how to start, develop, lead and grow the Lord's church.

Finally...and most significantly...we dream of a Reseda Ron and Ronda who are becoming Christlike. We see you living a life based upon:

- A new values system: A values system that is being driven by the habits of maturity.
- A new belief system: A Christian World View.
- A new lifestyle: Change and exciting growth that touches every area of your life - personal, family, work, goals, future.
- A new relationship: A deep and lasting relationship with the Lord that is personal and

intimate and joyous.

The goal of this vision is to bring glory to God by presenting Jesus Christ with as many Christlike disciples as we possibly can before He returns.

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT

