

April 3, 2011

Rethink: Fellowship, Bill Warrick

Fellowship is more than Friendship (Ephesians 4:1-6)

1. What qualifies someone as a good friend to you? What are the characteristics? **Open answer.**
2. What's the difference between friendship and fellowship? **Friendship usually focuses on each other and the similarities and natural affinities between people who would like each other without much effort and there aren't many differences. Fellowship is meant for a more diverse group whose focus is God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). There is a focus on unity despite our differences. In Matt. 18:20 Jesus says that fellowship is gathering "in my name". This means that we call on Him to be the center of our meeting/playing/gathering.**
3. Read Eph. 4:1-6. How many times do you find the word "one"? **7 times.** What is the Lord trying to tell us here? **Focus on our similarities in the one "body" of Christ that we are. The one God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The one hope (that Jesus is coming back and take us to our heavenly home. One faith (we're interdenominational). One Baptism (many modes). We are to be ONE!**
4. Read the prayer that precedes this passage (Eph.3:20-21). What are the implications of this prayer on chapter 4? **That we cannot do this unity thing...but God can! And He can do it beyond what we could ever ask or imagine.**
5. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What are some guidelines/exhortations for fellowship? **We should figure out ways to "spur" each other on to love and good works, we should continually be getting together (not just Sundays), and we should be encouraging each other.**
6. What "efforts" do you need to make this week to enhance/grow your fellowship with other followers of Christ? **Open answer.**