

things most
NEEDFUL



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. Church membership is of divine origin.
 - 1. The church itself is of divine origin – universal and local. (**Matthew 16:18; 7:21; Acts 13:2-3; 14:21-23**)
 - 2. Paul sought local church fellowship. (**Acts 9:19, 26-28**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. Church membership is of divine origin.
 - 3. There are commands given which are to be fulfilled in the fellowship of a local church. (**Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20**)
 - 4. One becomes a member of the church by obeying the gospel (**Acts 2:38, 41, 47**) and being added to the universal church by the Lord, then joining with a local assembly. (**Acts 2:42; 9:26-28**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

B. The function and blessings of church membership.

1. It allows us to accomplish the work God intended the church to do:

a. In benevolence. (*Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-7*)

b. In evangelism. (*2 Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:15-16; 1 Timothy 3:15*)

c. In edification. (*1 Corinthians 14:25; Ephesians 4:16*)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

- B. The function and blessings of church membership.
 - 2. In it we fulfill the responsibility and receive the blessings of:
 - a. Assembling with the saints. (**Hebrews 10:25**)
 - b. Submission to the elders. (**1 Peter 5:1-5; Hebrews 13:17**)
 - c. Fellowship in the work and worship of the local church. (**Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Philippians 1:3-5; 4:15**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

B. The function and blessings of church membership.

2. In it we fulfill the responsibility and receive the blessings of:

d. Preservation of unity, peace and harmony of the body. (1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:24-25; Ephesians 4:1-3)

e. Developing and using our talents and opportunities to aid the church in its work. (Romans 7:4; John 15:1-8)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

B. The function and blessings of church membership.

2. In it we fulfill the responsibility and receive the blessings of:

f. Loving, helping and serving each other. (1
Corinthians 12:25-26; Hebrews 10:24; 1
Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; Galatians 6:1-
2)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

C. Jesus taught a fundamental lesson about acceptable worship in **John 4:23-24**.

1. Must be directed toward the proper object – God.
(**Matthew 4:10; Revelation 4:11**)

a. Not done in idol worship. (**Exodus 20:2-5**)

b. Not done in man worship. (**Revelation 22:8-9; Acts 10:25-26; Matthew 23:9; Psalm 111:9; Matt. 15:9**)

c. Not done if anything is placed on equality with God in our affections. (**Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 22:36-37**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

C. Jesus taught a fundamental lesson about acceptable worship in **John 4:23-24**.

2. Must be offered with the proper motive – “in spirit.”

a. We must understand what we are doing. (**1 Corinthians 14:15**)

b. We must be sincere and concentrate on the meaning of the worship offered. (**1 Corinthians 11:27-29**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

C. Jesus taught a fundamental lesson about acceptable worship in **John 4:23-24**.

3. Must have proper direction – “in truth.”

a. God’s authority is truth. (**John 17:17**)

b. His authority must be respected. (**Matthew 7:21; Colossians 3:17**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

- D. New Testament worship was simple, uncomplicated, and involved the orderly participation of all. (**Acts 2:42, 44-45; 1 Corinthians 14:40**) It consisted of:
1. Congregational singing. (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**)
 2. Prayers offered by men. (**1 Corinthians 14:15a; 1 Timothy 2:1, 8**)
 3. Giving as we have been prospered. (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**)



THE NEED OF FELLOWSHIP

- D. New Testament worship was simple, uncomplicated, and involved the orderly participation of all. (**Acts 2:42, 44-45; 1 Corinthians 14:40**) It consisted of:
4. Partaking of the Lord's Supper. (**Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7**)
 5. Preaching and hearing the word of God. (**Acts 20:7; 1 Timothy 4:14, 16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5**)

