

Romans 1:11, 12

The Desire for Being Together as Christians - Part 2

Introduction:

- A fake I.D. is used to give an impression of something that is not accurate. Biblical fellowship cannot have “fake I.D.’s.”

Theme: Biblical Fellowship includes two basic things.

- I. Lovingly Give Spiritual Strengthening to Others - 1:11.
 - A. Recognize that you are equipped by God for ministry to others (Col 1:28, 29) - 1:11a.
 - B. Recognize that the goal is edification - 1:11b.

Transition: Only after we repeatedly practice this first point, can we expect this second thing to happen.

- II. Humbly Receive Spiritual Strengthening from Others - 1:12.
 - A. Mutual Spiritual Strengthening is the Nature of the Christian Church.
 1. Receiving spiritual strengthening requires humility.
 2. Receiving spiritual strengthening requires looking for genuine Christians.
 3. Receiving spiritual strengthening requires enjoying it.
 - B. Mutual Faith is a Picture of the Fellowship of the Christian Church (2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 1:3).

Conclusion:

- Ananias took a risk to fellowship for the first time with the Apostle Paul, a former killer of Christians (Acts 9:10-17).
- Compare: “If no one reaches out to me, I’m not coming back” with “If no one reaches out to me, I will reach out to someone.”
- Pray that you personally will be able to build relationships in the body in which you can help others to grow and serve Jesus better. Pray about some specific ways you can build others spiritually.
- Pray that you and the other members of the church will find encouragement in Christ by sharing with one another the good things God is doing in your lives.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. From this message, what was the truth that stuck out the most to you?
2. According to the greater context (Romans 1:8-12), what do you think one of the things was that helped Paul and the early church keep on target and not get diverted?
3. Explain how receiving spiritual strengthening requires humility.
4. What should be one of the first things the we look for in anyone that we meet? What should delight us to see in another?
5. Do you think that Paul needed encouragement? Why or why not?
6. Do you enjoy the company of all true Christians, or just certain ones?
7. In what ways does the mutual faith of Romans 1:12 show itself?

Thoughts for Prayer

1. Pray that you personally will be able to build relationships in the body in which you can help others to grow in Christ and serve Him better. Think of some believers with whom you already have relationships, and pray about some specific ways you can build them up spiritually.
2. Pray that you and the other members of the church will find encouragement in Christ by sharing with one another the good things God is doing in your lives. Ask God to help you and others not to focus primarily on the weaknesses of the body and its members, but rather on the common faith that you all share.
3. Pray the requests of Romans 1:8-10; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11 for our church and missionaries.