

## Chapter 27 – The Fellowship of Saints – #9

☆ **One of the great hindrances to our fellowship with one another** is our lack of communion with the Lord...

**Ephesians 6:18 – the Fellowship of PRAYER** – Colossians 1:3... 1 Thessalonians 3:10...  
James 5:16

**John MacArthur** – *‘The greatest thing we can do for another believer, or that he (or she) can do for us, is to pray. This is the way the Body of Christ grows spiritually as well as in love... The spiritually healthy person is devoted to the welfare of others, especially fellow believers. On the other hand, the root of both psychological and spiritual sickness is preoccupation with self.’* – *Commentary on Ephesians* (p.383)

*‘A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.’* – **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 – the Fellowship of ENCOURAGEMENT** – Ephesians 4:29

**What are some things we can do to encourage one another?**

(1<sup>st</sup>) Be glad in the Lord – Psalm 32:11

(2<sup>nd</sup>) Talk to others – 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

(3<sup>rd</sup>) Write notes – Ephesians 1:15-18

(4<sup>th</sup>) Realize the benefit of presence – Colossians 4:8... Hebrews 10:25

(5<sup>th</sup>) Cultivate a sympathizing sensitivity – Colossians 2:1-2

## **Hebrews 3:13 – the Fellowship of EXHORTATION...**

## **James 4:11-12 (5:9) – the Disfellowship of SPEAKING EVIL of one another...**

Titus 3:1-2

**GOSSIP** – rumors or inappropriate talk about others – 1 Timothy 5:13

**SLANDER** – making false and hurtful statements about someone – Proverbs 10:18-19...  
Proverbs 18:8

**REVILING** – insulting, verbally abusive speech – 1 Peter 2:21-23