Lesson 7

A NEW FELLOWSHIP

(A Change in My Associations)

All of us need friends. Someone to confide in, talk to, laugh with, and trust. God created man as a social being. Because of this, man has an inner desire to have personal relationships with others.

However, you should not have close friendships with just anybody. Rather you should associate with good company. If you have been born again, God wants you to make friendships with His children (with people that share the same beliefs and love the same Lord as you do).

God has established a setting to make genuine friends and to build good relationships. This setting is a Bible-centered church. It is through such a gathering that Christians commune together, pray together, sing together, learn together, and mature together. In this lesson, you will learn about the importance and blessing of assembling with God's people.

DOES IT MATTER WHO I FELLOWSHIP WITH?

God teaches that the type of friends you have will eventually determine what type of person you will become. He warns us with these words: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Corinthians 15:53).

1. Proverbs 13:20 describes two kinds of people. What are they called?

   Person A __

   Person B __

2. What is the result of associating with them?

   Person A __

Person B __

Read II Corinthians 6:14-18 and answer these questions:

3. What command does God give in II Corinthians 6:14?

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NOTE: A common practice in Bible days was to put a "yoke" (a wooden harness) around the neck of two oxen so that they would plow a field in harmony and unity with each other. An ox was not to be yoked up with a donkey, since the two animals would not work together well because they were entirely opposite in strengths, habits, and nature (cp. Deuteronomy 22:10).

4. God gives us five examples to illustrate why a Christian should not "yoke up" with unbelievers.

In your own words describe the point that God is making in verses 14-16:

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5. What should you do if you are already involved with a false religion, or mixed up with bad company? (verse 17)

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WHY SHOULD I ASSEMBLE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS?

If you know and love the Lord and you meet someone else who does, you will notice that you have a closeness or "common bond" with them.

1. What did the early church continually do because of this common faith in Jesus Christ? (Acts 2:42)

They continued in _____

They continued in _____

They continued in _____

They continued in _____

2. Because of their common belief, what words show the unity of these Christians?
(Read verses 44-47)

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. What words show this same unity in Acts 4:32?

_____

_____

_____

4. God commands that Christians should not do something. What is it? (Hebrews 10:25)

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5. Even though certain believers in New Testament times had a problem of forsaking (abandoning) the assembly, God teaches that church attendance will be even more important when? (Hebrews 10:25b)

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(*The Day that is approaching refers to the day of Christ's return - Jesus is coming back again! (Hebrews 10:37 - cp. Romans 13:11-12; Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16; II Thessalonians 2:2).

6. Why should we go to church? We go to provoke (encourage) fellow Christians to do what? (Hebrews 10:24)

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_____

7. God establishes certain types of workers in churches. One of them is the pastor. What is his purpose? (Ephesians 4:12)

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8. In I Corinthians 12 God compares the church to the human body. Your body has many parts ("Members"), but it is one body. The church body is the same way. Who joins believers into this one body? (I Corinthians 12:13)

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9. Read verses 14-18 and answer these questions:

_____ TRUE/FALSE Some members of the body are not needed.

_____ TRUE/FALSE Every member of the body does the same job.

10. Believers in a church body have the same Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father, but they each have differences in what?

I Cor. 12:4 - __

I Cor. 12:5 - __

I Cor. 12:6 - __

11. What gifts or abilities has God given you? __

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How can you use them to help fellow Christians? __

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12. The phrase "one another" can be seen throughout the New Testament. What should you be doing for fellow Christians?

_____ one another (Romans 12:10)

_____ one another (Romans 12:10)

_____ one another (Romans 12:16)

_____ one another (Romans 13:8)

_____ one another (Romans 14:13)

_____ one another (Romans 14:19)

_____ one another (Romans 15:5)

_____ one another (Romans 15:7)

_____ one another (Romans 15:14)