

Fellowship: Day by Day in 2016

A. **Day by day.** That's our congregational focus for 2016. To be "of Christ." Every day. Everywhere. To follow in the footsteps of the earliest Christians—men and women whose lives were powerfully transformed (*Acts 2:42-47*). How did that transformation come about?

1. **Conviction** was experienced by those who were willing to receive "the word of the cross."
2. Conviction through "the word of the cross" produced **devotion** to "the way of the cross."
3. Devotion to "the way of the cross" is fueled by **awe**.

B. Where does this ancient "newborn picture" of the Lord's church take us next?

_____ : a word that implies joint participation, sharing, commonality, or partnership.

A. *1 Corinthians 1:9* contains incredibly wonderful news!

1. "God is faithful" — this opportunity is made available by the grace of our Creator.
2. "By whom you were called" — this good news is calling for a _____ (*2 Thes 2:13-14*).
3. "Into the fellowship" — we are called to become a part of something larger than ourselves.
4. "Of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" — this relationship revolves around _____ (*1 John 1:1-3*).

B. When **you** are convicted and answer that call and **I** am convicted and answer that call and **we** devote ourselves to "walking in the light," we enjoy _____ with one another (*1 John 1:5-7*).

1. We are in the state or condition of being "fellows" (*Col 4:7, 10-11; Phil 2:25*).

2. The gospel brings us into:

- a. _____ (*John 17:20-21*)
- b. One body (*1 Cor 12:12-13*)
- c. _____ (*1 Cor 1:10*)
- d. Unity (*Eph 4:1-6*)
- e. _____ (*2 Cor 6:14-18*)
- f. Community (*Eph 2:13-19*)
- g. _____ (*Eph 3:6*)
- h. Partnership (*Phil 1:3-5*)
- i. Full _____ (*Phil 2:1-2*)

C. This fellowship isn't simply theoretical; it powerfully, visibly, tangibly shapes real _____ (*Phil 2:3-4; 2 Cor 13:11; 1 Thes 5:11-15; Heb 3:13-14; 10:24-25; 13:1-3; James 5:16; 1 Pet 3:8-9; 1 John 3:18*).

D. *Acts 2:42-47* describes the beautiful fellowship of the very first Christians.

1. They devoted themselves to learning...together.
2. They worshiped the God who is awesome...together.
3. When necessary, they sold and shared...together.
4. They spent time in homes...together.

E. Do you want to grow in 2016? Do you want to develop authentic relationships in 2016? Do you want to have real impact on the lives of other people in 2016? Don't settle for "theoretical" fellowship!