

# The Message Of His Church Walking in His Image!

## Lesson 8: Measuring Our Commitment To Fellowship – Part 1 Scripture: 1John 1:6-7

### Introduction

1. Tonight we will study some very basic principles in bringing all of us to a fuller maturity **“in Jesus Christ”**.
  - a. These principles from the apostle Paul are very relevant for us today.
  - b. These directives have been proven to work in every \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.
  - c. They will work in every local church body around the world as well.
2. They are essential concepts (proven) in building up the local body of Christ – **Acts 2:45-47**

### I. Walking With One Another In Fellowship

#### A. “Joined and knit together” – Ephesians 4:16

1. anchor verse – **Ephesian 4:16** Paul describes very specifically **how God intended for the local church to grow and mature in Christ.**
  - a. When it comes to leadership, what do we see in vs.11?
  - b. Why leaders? see vs.12
  - c. Did God intend for church leaders to do God’s work (ministry) all by themselves?
  - d. Answer: see vs.13-16
2. How does a local church of Christ actually grow and mature in **love**?
  - a. answer – see vs.16
  - b. Do we want the church to become what our Bride Groom wants? What does He want?
  - c. see **Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 19:6-8**

#### B. “Speaking The Truth In Love” – Ephesians 4:15

1. When we, in the body of Christ, seek to build up one another, it must be rooted and grounded in God’s revealed truth.
2. We saw this model followed in the early church in Jerusalem (lesson 6).
  - a. Acts 2:42
  - b. Only Christ and His word will build a strong foundation on which to stand. 1Corinthians 3:10-11
3. Closely aligned with their learning experience with the word of God was “fellowship” (koinonia).
  - a. vs.42
  - b. **Divine directive** – True Christianity, by God’s own design, **“Is to be deeply relational”**.

c. **see 1John 1:3,7**

d. What will happen if a local body of Christ is not relational?

e. Example of relational success – **Acts 2:44-47**

**C. Our Commitment To One Another – Romans 12:15-16**

1. In the text, **Romans 12** used a number of metaphors to illustrate **how the local church should grow and function in this world.**

a. Architecture metaphor – 1Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:20-22

b. Agricultural metaphor – 1Corinthians 3:9; Mark 4:1-20

**D. We are “members of one another” Romans 12:4-5**

1. In these verses, Paul used one of his favorite metaphors - the human body.

a. **Romans 12:4**

b. **1Corinthians 12:14-16**

c. How should the human body work? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Did the brethren in Corinth understand this metaphor by Paul?

e. Notice again, how Paul approached this analogy in **Romans 12:4-5 . . .**  
now see **Ephesians 4:16.**

2. **The focus of Paul’s teaching:** That every Christian **is** important in every local church – wherever that church is located in the world.

a. Can the local church family function properly if only a few are doing ministry?

b. Every Christian has something to contribute! see **vs.6-8**

c. What will happen if a local church does not take this directive seriously?

**E. “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love” – Romans 12:10**

1. Here, Paul used another metaphor – a family analogy.

a. Paul used the Greek word **philadelphia** (brotherly love).

b. “Brotherly” or “brothers” is a generic word that refers to a family.

c. Think back to our anchor verse in **Ephesians 4:16** and compare it to:

(1) **Colossians 2:19**

(2) **Romans 12:10**

2. What is the problem that all families face and most deal with on a daily basis?

a. The problem is \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Sin causes families to be dysfunctional family units. Why?

c. Is this problem new in our age?

3. Has God given us the means so healing in the family unit can be restored?

a. How can the kingdom of God and the church of our Lord help?

b. We must all \_\_\_\_\_!

c. How should a local church function based on our text?

d. Will a dysfunctional church grow into the likeness of Christ?