



## Promoting Fellowship

Saints can attend services for years, but still feel a lack of connectedness.

This triggers a yearning for the genuine love and care in Romans 12:10: *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...”*

Fellowship can be defined as friendly companionship or intimate communion. Why does it seem illusive? Many things are often squeezed into our Bible services/activities. The lack of time and opportunity, with a bit of shyness can inhibit meaningful exchanges.

However, as comfortable occasions to commune arise, saints unwind and naturally express what they feel and how they are really doing. Surely these intimate connections can be made, but how?

Life may always be hectic, so plug in relaxing, fun fellowship times to break the ice:

- Ask elders to promote distinct social times before/after services.
- Create new ministry opportunities that foster close fellowship.
- Regularly invite someone new over for lunch after services, or meet for coffee or ice cream.
- Plan a monthly men’s breakfast, a women’s retreat, or have a few couples over for a group date night or seasonal potluck.
- Organize new events like a church campout or barbecue.

**Make Opportunities Happen!**

# Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be underlined, or made bold for emphasis.



## Responding to Opportunities in the Local Assembly

Ministry refers to serving and living the Word through interactions and activities. As saints mature and are founded in basic doctrine, service becomes a natural way for Christ to be made manifest. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service.**” (Rom. 12: 1) *God’s service is reasonable, but oftentimes, it is not convenient, nor what we expect or want.**

**The flesh** desires service activities that ‘we like’ or are easy, quick jobs, but many needs are ‘non-preferred tasks,’ pushing us out of our comfort zones. The flesh may think, “Oh, well that’s not my gift.” Yet often, being a sacrifice includes performing mundane, tough services. In grace, a saint can become motivated to think differently, not *“...more highly than he ought to think...”* (Rom. 12:3) **Led by the Spirit**, in grace, ‘self’ can be put aside to do whatever is needed.



## Are Saints Really Closer Than Family?

Paul uses the word ‘brethren’ 100 times in his epistles. It is used in the place of the term, ‘brothers.’ Why? Paul is teaching believers that they are family, but even closer, members one of another. *“For the body is not one member, but many...Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”* (I Cor. 12:14,27) Body members are intimately interconnected (as the extremities of a mortal body).

The bond we have with our earthly kin can often take priority over the saints; yet our relationship with believers is eternal. The Spirit intimately joins us as a ‘heavenly family.’ The local assembly is like a training laboratory enabling us to function and fellowship together as who we are in Christ. *“And whether one member suffer, all members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all members rejoice with it.”* (I Cor. 12:26) **So, how do you really view saints?**



## Romans 16: Student Study Insights

Romans 16 is the last chapter of Romans, concluding the 'Worship & Service' section. First, Phebe is acknowledged as the one who delivered this letter to Rome. Paul then details specifics about faithful saints who work in unison with Christ.

The book concludes (vs. 25-26) by referring back to the initial goal (Rom. 1:11), which is to establish the church. Paul clarifies what can be accomplished by the epistle, confident the doctrine would 'stabilize' all who understand and trust the doctrine. Go on in your study to explore the details:

**1) Notice the organization:** Read through the chapter several times to gain general insight. Observe how the chapter is organized into sections; make a note of each and assign topics.

**2) Assess the attitude:** Find the words/phrases that indicate these saints are working together with one purpose. How did this happen?

**3) Examine Scripture with an open mind:** Were any of the saints listed in the chapter Jews from the Little Flock? If you see this, list the verses.

**4) Find the purpose:** The unity and godly service of the believers listed, reflect their attainment of the goal of Romans. Explain how these relate?

**5) Look up terms:** What does the word 'church' really mean? Use a dictionary. Is a Bible study the same as a church? Why would saints meet in homes? Did some worship in large buildings? Why or why not? Skim the chapter to note some of the ministry activities. Do they all apply today?

**6) Search for more detail:** Priscilla and Aquila helped Paul many times over the years. Use a concordance to find other places they were mentioned. What can you learn and apply from their ministry?

**7) Notice when Paul includes a warning:** Where does he caution saints in the chapter? Were these individuals baby Christians who didn't know better or those purposefully causing problems in the local assemblies? Do the verses provide clues?

**8) Read for details:** Examine Verses 25-26 to obtain specifics about Paul's gospel. Describe the specifics.

**9) Note the transitional verse:** Read Romans 16:17 and compare it to the key verse in I Corinthians 1:10. How are they connected? Could this Romans verse be the transitional verse into I Corinthians?

## Actively Nourished In The Word

The Church can be seen as a living organism, needing sustenance and regular physical maintenance. It's members are interconnected, functioning best if they are spiritually well-fed with regular exercise, similar to our physical bodies. When one believer is malnourished or sick, it affects all. Pastors and teachers feed us the Word so we can grow to maturity, but we need to make the time to build up and maintain our own selves too, to secure the health of our inward man.

At times, life issues can seem overwhelming, making it difficult to attend Church, serve others, or even do personal reading and study. Yet God is our strength and provision. He desires your heart & genuine worship to live Christ, especially when life becomes challenging. Consider Job's attitude: "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12)

When we mature to trust that Scripture is vital nutrition to live on this earth and sustain our eternal soul, we make it a priority. God's admonition is: *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."* (II Tim 2:15) The conclusion: As a 'workman,' prioritize your life 'to do' what God instructs. One of many results will be that the whole Body of Christ will manifest functional life and rejoice! **Think on this!**



## Knowing the Purpose of the Body of Christ

What is the purpose of our close identification in the Body? It provides comfort, support, and ministry opportunities, but also is an outreach to the world. As ambassadors we are left here in Christ's stead, and God "...hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (II Cor. 5:19)

Paul goes on to say, "We then, as **workers** together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain...But in all things approving ourselves as ministers of God..." (II Corinthians 6:1,4) Thus, there is some **work** that God desires to be done by us as we live in this physical realm, on Christ's behalf. We are His Body: His arms, hands, and feet to minister to others as did Paul.

Saints are to be separate from the darkness that permeates this world, as holy and beloved of the Lord. His purpose is that "...ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (II Corinthians 6:18) This is an exalted position to minister and do 'the Lord's work' not our own agenda, nor serving our fleshly ideas, desires, & priorities.

We have all things, "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." (II Cor. 9:11) Motivated then by Christ's love and all He has done we can put others first, even when it's contrary to our flesh. Saints are to walk by faith, putting aside every fleshly concern, even in fear and trembling.

This is a tall order! If we view it in our flesh we will be gripped by fear. Saints are able to function as those in Romans 16, but it's only possible by God's power in us, as we yield, 'led by the Spirit.' (Rom. 8:14) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal. 2:20) **Can you trust God in your godly walk?**

### Living According To The Mind of Christ

As a student progresses in faith through the book of Romans to Chapter 16, sound doctrine is formed inside, maturing him to become an adult believer (a son or daughter).

This process develops the mind of Christ, enabling him to function wisely to make sound judgments and decisions in life, even to teach and coach others. "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another **according to Christ Jesus.**" (Rom. 15:5) Saints can then live & negotiate life 'according to Christ.'

## Just A Minute with Scripture Respecting Pastors & Teachers

Ephesians 4 advances us to understand why God gave us pastors and teachers: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Vs. 11-12) They are to help us learn and live Christ!

The ultimate goal is clarified in Verse 13: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Being unified refers to thinking and living as one, in Truth and harmony of God's purpose and plan, living His will.

We are perfected or matured in the 'form of doctrine' God, through Paul, has provided us in Romans-Philemon. The reason: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine..." (Vs. 14) We're to grow!

Believers can respond in faith to what God teaches; then be bold to speak the Truth to others. This shows maturity in our adult son/daughter relationship, living unto the Father, not fearing or exalting 'self' or what is seen. "But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.**" (Verse 15)

As we function as one Body, and edify ourselves in love, we are 'renewed in the spirit of our mind.' (Vs. 23) This enables us to live to encourage, support, and teach others.

**What a great privilege!**



**Christian Life Coach Support Services**

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Stamp

To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**



**Reflections**

I looked in the mirror and  
what did I see?  
A little old lady, peering back  
at me.

With bags, and sags and wrinkles and  
wispy white hair,  
I ask my reflection, How’d you get there?

You once were straight and vigorous, but  
now stooped and weak,  
When I tried so hard to keep from becoming  
an antique.

My reflection’s eyes twinkled and she  
solemnly replied,  
You are looking at the gift wrap and not  
the jewel inside.

A living gem and precious, of unimagined  
worth;  
Unique and true, the real you; the only  
you on earth!

The years have spoiled your gift wrap,  
with other things more cruel;  
But it should purify and strengthen and  
polish up that jewel.

So focus your attention on the inside, not  
the out  
On being kinder, wiser, more content and  
devout.

Then, when your gift wrap is stripped  
away, your jewel will be set free,  
To radiate God’s glory throughout eternity.

**Author Unknown**



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**About Our Grace Ministry:** Contact us if you are interested in any of the opportunities below, have questions, or need assistance.

**Life Coaching** (Applying Pauline Truth)  
Coaching is a helping service, which includes Bible instruction, mentoring, support, and applying Scripture to life situations for personal growth. The Scripture is used as our primary resource. Options: In-person/phone/skype. Coaching and teaching: individuals, couples, and groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

**Home Church-Bible Study:** Join our ‘Grace’ ministry in the Richmond Area. Call (above) for directions.

Friday Home Family Bible Study/Church: 7-9 pm  
Wednesday Ladies Study: 10:30-12 pm at LaPrade Library  
Friday Women’s Home Study: 1-3 pm

**Newsletter**

*Just A Minute:* Monthly Grace newsletter providing Bible study, edification, and life application to sound doctrine.

*Newby’s Bridge:* A quarterly bulletin designed to instruct the ‘newby,’ that is, an unbeliever, or a Christian who has not had much opportunity to grow in sound doctrine.

**Books**

*What to Appreciate As We Approach God’s Word*  
*How the Bible is Practical and Able to Mature Believers*  
*Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer*  
*Romans Study Guide*

*Personal Corner,*  
*We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who support our ministry and enjoy the newsletter and publications. As always, feel free to share them with those in your ‘circle of influence.’*  
*Please know we love feedback! Email us with questions or any suggestions you may have so we can continue to improve our ministry.*

