

- b. Christian fellowship is never a substitute for perception of Bible doctrine.
- c. Christian fellowship is destroyed by the various categories of fragmentation. Fragmented believers cannot have Christian fellowship.
- d. The assembly of believers in the local church is designed for worship, which emphasizes perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine, first toward God and then toward people.
- e. Fellowship or friendship with other believers is optional; it is never mandatory.

**Hebrews 10:25** Stop forsaking from the assembling yourselves together, as is the habit of certain reversionists, but so much more [ τσοοῦτος μᾶλλον (*tosóutos mállon*): **Classical Greek** ] as you see the day of the rapture or physical death approaching. (EXT)

- (1) Encouragement comes from Bible doctrine, not from “one another.”
  - (2) Encouragement comes from:
    - (a) The perception of the mystery doctrine.
    - (b) Learning and utilizing the problem-solving devices.
    - (c) Utilizing our very own portfolio of invisible assets.
  - (3) Christian fellowship can be encouraging, but it is not the source of encouragement.
  - (4) Hebrews 10:25 actually emphasizes the assembly of believers to learn Bible doctrine, making Christian fellowship a secondary function. By putting doctrine first, Christian fellowship can be a wonderful function.
  - (5) It is the secondary function of Christian fellowship which contributes to the intensification of fragmentation.
- f. Christian fellowship is never a substitute for fellowship with God, or for learning doctrine, nor is it the basis for spiritual momentum. Spiritual momentum in the execution of God’s plan and subsequent glorification of God comes only through perception, metabolization, and application of doctrine.
  - g. The believer’s right pastor communicates doctrine in one of two ways to the believer.



- (1) In face-to-face teaching.
  - (2) In non-face-to-face teaching through the written page or with electronic contrivances.
  - h. God never denies doctrinal teaching to a positive believer. This includes believers who are isolated from local churches. Not everyone's right pastor is in his same geographical periphery.
  - i. Christian fellowship with other believers in the same geographical periphery is not necessary for the execution of the protocol plan of God.
3. Disadvantages to Christian Fellowship.
- a. The establishment of wrong priorities in the Christian life can occur through the influence of confused or fragmented Christians.
  - b. Distraction from Bible doctrine can occur through preoccupation with friendship, romance, or marriage.
  - c. The polarization of the sin nature's trend toward self-righteous arrogance and legalism can occur through association with legalistic believers.
  - d. The polarization of the sin nature's trend toward lascivious-lawlessness and antinomianism can occur through association with antinomian believers.
  - e. You can use Christian fellowship as a means of advancing self in a business or a profession.
  - f. You can fragment your life through interaction with other believers according to 2 Timothy 3:2-7.
4. Christian fellowship is not necessary.
- a. Positive believers will always be provided with Bible doctrine, but not always with Christian fellowship.
  - b. Christian fellowship can be very stimulating and enjoyable, if there is no detrimental influence from fragmentation, and if there is no polarization of that fragmentation into the sin nature trends, so that you identify Christianity with either legalism or antinomianism.
  - c. Christian fellowship cannot advance the believer in God's plan, will, or purpose; only the mystery doctrine for the Church Age can do that.



- d. Social life in the form of Christian fellowship can be a refreshing interlude, but it can never replace fellowship with God through post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation.
  - e. Therefore, Christian fellowship cannot replace the execution of the protocol plan, becoming an invisible hero, and thereby glorifying God.
  - f. So, beware of assigning to Christian fellowship a role it can never play. However, if you grow in grace, execute the protocol plan, and use the problem-solving devices, your relationships in life will be fantastic.
5. Marriage.
- a. One of the greatest misconceptions in life originates from the myth that marriage means happiness and is a panacea of life.
  - b. Actually, marriage is a problem-manufacturing device related to the fragmented life.
  - c. It isn't the institution of marriage that is at fault, but the fact that people are no better in marriage than they are as people.
  - d. A believer who uses his volition to pull the pin of arrogance has fragmented his life. Fragmentation polarizes into sin nature trends which can very quickly destroy a marriage.
  - e. Therefore, the perpetuation of the fragmented life causes the believer to become a loser. If he's married, he's also a loser as a spouse.
  - f. Losers are not believers who fail, but believers who do nothing about their failures, like not using the problem-solving devices. Only the problem-solving devices can convert a loser into a winner, whether he's single or married.
  - g. Only the plan of God and problem-solving devices have answers. Regarding marital problems, remember that you can only change yourself; you can't change your spouse. Changing yourself means mastering and utilizing the problem-solving devices.
  - h. But most people try to change their marriage problems by trying to change their spouse to conform to their standards, or if that doesn't work, by changing their spouse.

