

Broad Street church of Christ
 433 East Broad Street
 Statesville NC, 28677 | 704-873-4836
 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



Where Should We Stand on the Issue of Fellowship

The Bible doctrine of fellowship is a difficult subject for many because of the strong emotions involved in personal relationships. No one wants to withdraw fellowship from anyone, especially their friends and family. Yet the Bible teaches clearly in such passages as Matthew 18, 1 Corinthians 5, 2 Thessalonians 3, and Romans 16:17 that sometimes we must. The Bible also teaches that failure to withdraw fellowship appropriately is equally offensive to God (2 Thessalonians 3:14). Such underscores the seriousness God has regarding the command.

Practicing this command is not easy to do either spiritually or emotionally. Because of this, some simply will not do what God desires: they will not withdraw fellowship when God's word demands it. This kind of thinking places our love for men above our love for God and His word. These individuals need to be reminded that God comes first in our affections (Matthew 6:33, 22:37-38). We love God by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:2-3). Can we both love God and fellowship those who have left the faith? We cannot.

In contrast to the above attitude, there are those who abuse church discipline. These want to withdraw fellowship upon the slightest of indiscretions. To compound their error, they hold faithful brethren, who in patience and love continue to work with these individuals, in equal contempt. This view of fellowship is based upon the erroneous conclusion from 2 John 10-11 that mere personal appearances with certain people are enough to withdraw. In contrast, 2 John 10-11 teaches that we ought not to give aid and comfort to deliberate false teachers. If we do such, with support and encouragement, obviously we partake of their evil deeds.

2 John 10-11 does not suggest, however, that fellowship ought to be recursively withdrawn from anyone appearing with someone who is in error. Such a position would imply that faithful brethren would need to withdraw fellowship from themselves as there is always someone with whom we are in fellowship, who fellowships someone who fellowships someone (etc.) who is not in fellowship. Any doctrine of fellowship that implies that a faithful Christian need withdraw

What Must I Do To Be Saved?:
 Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15,16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

<p>Worship Times</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>Sunday A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M.</p> <p>Sunday P.M. Worship 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>Building Lockup: Billy Ellenburg</p> <p>Announcements: Billy Ellenburg</p> <p>Door Greeters: Billy and Debbie E.</p> <p>Count Contribution: Johnny Smith and Guy Byrd</p> <p>Prepare Lord's Table: Chante' Vaughn</p>
<p>Elders</p> <p>John Anderson 704.592.2266</p> <p>Steve Short 704.872.5440</p> <p>Tommy Smith 704.872.7966</p> <p>Bradley Speer 704.876.6986</p>	<p>Lord's Supper (A.M.): John Anderson, Johnny Smith, Bradley Speer, Shawn Sharpe</p> <p>Lord's Supper (P.M.): John Anderson</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Landon Speer</p> <p>Song Leader: Henry Rumble</p> <p>Opening Prayer (A.M.): Tommy Smith</p>
<p>Preacher</p> <p>Dave Wood 704.380.4437</p>	<p>Closing Prayer (A.M.): Tom May</p> <p>Opening Prayer (P.M.): Guy Byrd</p> <p>Closing Prayer (P.M.): Billy Ellenburg</p>

fellowship from himself is a false doctrine of fellowship! On the other hand, we have those who say there are no boundaries of fellowship at all. "We can fellowship everyone regardless of who they are or what they believe." Such is an equally repugnant and unbiblical position to hold.

How ought we to practice the Bible doctrine of fellowship? We ought, on a case by case basis, to judge according to righteous judgment and not according to appearance (John 7:24). We ought to accept each individual's person without partiality (1 Timothy 5:21, James 3:17) until such a point in time as they prove to us individually that they have left the faith (1 Timothy 1:19-20). Such proof may take the form of their public writings, speaking, or other actions. If their actions are private, we are obliged to follow the procedures set forth in Matthew 18:15-20 until such a time as it becomes public. We have no precedent, however, to withdraw from someone other than dealing with their actions individually and personally. Nevertheless, when such has been proven that they have left the faith, we must withdraw.

Such a view of withdrawal is biblical, balanced, loving, and consistent with the Bible's complete teaching on the doctrine of fellowship. It thus seeks to love God first in obeying His commands, and also our fellow man in respecting his personal situation without judging inappropriately. Practicing the Bible's teaching regarding fellowship is not easy one way or the other. Let us not, however, seek to make it easy by either not practicing it at all, or by throwing out the proverbial baby with the bathwater and not having fellowship with anyone but our own clique. Instead, let us seek to judge each individual fairly, on a case by case basis, without resorting to a cliquish or devilish mentality.

Sermons:

A.M. – Cost – (Luke 14:25-27);

P.M. – Keeping the Sabbath – (2 Tim. 4:2-4)

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

Shut-Ins:

Bill Proctor and Frances Elam.

Prayers:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Jane Shepherd and Frank Shepherd.

- Hassie Short's brother, Ronnie McBride, had a stroke last week and has been diagnosed with Rocky Mountain fever. He is doing some better, but is still under the care of the hospital.

- Chris Smith has requested our prayers for some health problems that he is experiencing.

- Mike Godwin has blood pressure issues and would appreciate some visits. Please call (704)252 -8224.
2102 Windrush Court
Statesville, NC 28677

Upcoming Events:

May 20: Senior's Rally at Warner's Chapel at 9 A.M. (There is a sign-up sheet in the annex if you wish to attend).

May 28: Fourth Sunday night singing! Don't forget about the fellowship meal following evening services.

May 21-25: West Jefferson church of Christ will host their Spring Gospel Meeting with John Daniels.

June 12-16: Plan on attending VBS! Remember, there will be classes for all ages.