Connecting To Fellowship

- People Don’t Want To Admit That They Are Lonely
- Truth: People Still Need Human Contact
- “Solitary Confinement Is Still The Most Severe Punishment That A Prisoner Can Receive.”
- (Romans 14:7 NIV) "For None Of Us Lives To Himself Alone And None Of Us Dies To Himself Alone..."
Connecting To Fellowship

- Fellowship Is Not Optional For A Biblical Christian
- Man Was Created For Fellowship
- Jesus said: “I give you a new commandment: love one another.... Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.... By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34; 15:12, 17)
Connecting To Fellowship

- We Belong In God’s Family With Other Believers

- (Gal 6:10 NIV) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
We Need Each Other!

(Eph 2:19b-22 MSG) ... You are no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here... He’s using us all...

(Rom 12:5 NIV) so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Connecting To Fellowship

- We Need To Be In A Local Fellowship To Grow Spiritually

- Fellowship Is Mentioned 132 Times In Scripture

- (Heb 10:24 NIV) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
(Eccl 4:9-10 NIV) Two are better than one, ... (10) If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

(Eccl 4:12 NIV) Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Connecting To Fellowship

- **We Need Accountability In Order To Grow Spiritually**
- *(Prov 27:17 NIV)* As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.
- *(Heb 3:13 NIV)* But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
(Gal 6:1-2 NIV) Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. (2) Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Qualities Of Those Who Are Accountable:

1. **Vulnerability**
2. **Teach-ability**
3. **Availability**
4. **Honesty**
Connecting To Fellowship

- Christ Is Present When We Fellowship Together

- (Mat 18:20 NIV) For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
Fellowship Is A Witness To The World

(John 17:21 NIV) ... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

(John 13:35 NIV) By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
It Is True Concern And Compassion (Caring For Others) That Makes The Church Stand Out

Real Ministry Occurs Through Relationships
Connecting To Fellowship

- **We Are Obligated To Other Christians**

  - (1 PET 4:10 NLT) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another

  - (1 COR 12:5,27 NIV) “There are different kinds of service to God... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”
Connecting To Fellowship

- Not One Of Us Can Make It On Our Own

- We Are Called To A One Another Fellowship
  - “Serve One Another…”
  - “Accept One Another…”
  - “Forgive One Another…”
  - “Bear The Burdens Of One Another…”
  - “Be Devoted To One Another…”
  - “Honor One Another…”
  - “Teach One Another…”
  - “Submit To One Another…”
  - “Encourage One Another…”
Connecting To Fellowship

- How Can We Get To That Place That We Are Connecting With One Another In Fellowship?

- Every Person Needs To Be A Part Of What Is Going On Here

- At C.F.A. We Believe That As Our Church Grows Larger We Must Also Grow Smaller
Connecting To Fellowship

- Problem – Lack Of Quality Relationships / Loneliness / People Falling Through The Cracks

- God Never Intended For Us To Live Our Lives Alone Or Walk Out Our Christian Faith Alone

- The Answer: Everyone Of Us Needs To **Belong To A Connect Group**
Connecting To Fellowship

- Connect Groups Are Get-Togethers
- Connect Groups Help Us To Connect In Faith, Friendship, And Fun!
- Connect Groups Provide An Avenue For Christian Fellowship To Take Place
Connecting To Fellowship

Through Our Connect Groups We Are:
- Building Friendships
- Building Faith
- Building God's Kingdom Together!

We Can't Just Hope Members Will Make Friends In The Church. We Must Encourage It, Plan For It, Structure For It And Facilitate It

We Must Think Relationally
Connecting To Fellowship

- A Healthy Life Is All About Making The Right Connections
  - Connecting With God -- With Others
- You Can Join a Connect Group Next Month
- We Look Forward To Seeing You There
Connecting To Fellowship

Fellowship Is Important Because

1. In God’s Family We Belong With Other Believers
2. We Need To Be In A Local Fellowship To Grow Spiritually
3. We Need Accountability In Order To Grow Spiritually
4. Christ Is Present When We Fellowship Together
5. Fellowship Is A Witness To The World
6. We Are Obligated To Other Christians

We Pray That Fellowship Will Flourish at CFA