



# sermon notes

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Ps Dave**

## **FELLOWSHIP – THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE**

God created man ...as an **extension of himself...for shared life**. We are created for fellowship with God first - *“It is not good for man to be alone...” — Gen 2:18*

It is made:

- before sin
- before brokenness
- in a perfect world

And yet God says: **“This is not good.”**

**The Lonely Crowd - 1950 > the internal polarity of people’s heart had shifted...**

**Result of WW2? > generational curse**

- Loneliness is what we feel.
- Loneliness is often reduced to: “feeling”
- But it is far deeper than that.

**It is the body and soul reacting to the absence of what it was designed for.**

Separation is what is actually happening.

**Dislocated heart > a heart that has become disconnected from its true centre, purpose, or source of life.**

Humanity was created for fellowship - shared life, **yet many people are living disconnected from the life they were designed to experience.**

**THE GREAT PARADOX**

We are living in: **the most connected generation in history...**and yet experiencing: **deep relational disconnection**

**We have:**

- constant communication
- constant interaction
- constant visibility

**...but often lack:**

- Meaningful relationships

**The answer is Fellowship**

What is fellowship? Because if fellowship is the answer, we need to understand what it is.

## PENTECOST – MORE THAN POWER

Last week > Pentecost > Acts 2.

Last week we looked at

- the tongues of fire.
- Peter standing up and lifting his voice.

But one of the most powerful dynamics in *Acts 2. Acts 2:42-47 TPT*

*[42] Every believer was **faithfully devoted to** following the teachings of the apostles. **Their hearts were mutually linked to one another**, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer.*

*[43] A deep sense of holy awe swept over everyone, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.*

*[44] All the believers were in fellowship as one body, and they shared with one another whatever they had.*

*[45] **Out of generosity** they even sold their assets to distribute the proceeds to those who were in need among them.*

*[46] Daily they met together in the temple courts and in **one another's homes to celebrate** communion. They shared meals together with joyful hearts and tender humility. [47] They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were **coming to life**.*

The miracle of Pentecost was not only tongues of fire.

The miracle of Pentecost was fellowship....heart shift in the way people relate

## WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?

For many people fellowship means:

- Coffee after church
- Social gatherings
- Hanging out together
- Being friendly

While those things can express fellowship, they are not fellowship itself.

**Etymology** - someone who shares property or part of a **joint venture**.

Biblically, fellowship is multifaceted. The New Testament word is:

**Koinonia**.

It means:

- Participation
- Partnership
- Communion
- Shared life

Fellowship is not merely being around or attending something. It is participation in something.

God's original intent was fellowship with humanity.... **a joint venture**  
The story of Scripture begins with God walking with man.  
The story begins with shared life.... it's **proactive not passive**

### LIFE MOVES TOWARD PEOPLE

One thing that becomes obvious when you study Jesus is this:  
**Jesus was proactive in relationship.... still is**  
He did not wait for people to find Him. He moved toward them.  
Jesus was known by being proactive in connecting to people  
He was intentionally relational....**to all people**

One of the accusations repeatedly levelled against Him was:

*"A friend of tax collectors and sinners."*

- He ate in Matthews house. (Tax Collector)
- He invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house. (little guy...tax collector)
- He spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- He touched lepers.
- He allowed a sinful woman to wash His feet with her tears.
- He sat at tables many people would never have sat at.

**He consistently moved toward people. Jesus did not avoid broken people to protect His reputation; He entered their world to restore their identity.**

### THE POWER OF THE TABLE

In the first century, table fellowship communicated acceptance and relationship.  
To share a meal was to share life.

**The religious mindset said:** Separate from sinners to preserve holiness.

**Jesus demonstrated:** Bring holiness into relationship and watch transformation happen.

The leper did not make Jesus unclean - Jesus made the leper clean.

The sinner did not make Jesus sinful - Jesus brought life wherever He went.

Religion often manages separation - Jesus crossed separation.

**Again and again, He moved toward people.** Not because He approved of everything they did. **But because love moves toward people....**

### BARRIERS AND BOUNDARIES

A few years ago I spent time in the United States on a study tour. One of the things that stood out to me repeatedly was the way people related.

- businesses.
- neighbourhoods.

Either there were no barriers or proactive to remove barriers between people. Not boundaries. Barriers. There is a difference.

### **Boundaries are healthy.**

- Boundaries protect life.
- Boundaries create responsibility.

### **But barriers keep people distant.**

- Barriers keep people separated.
- Barriers prevent relationship.

### **Many live with barriers**

- Cultural barriers.
- Social barriers.
- Economic barriers.
- Relational barriers.
- Religious barriers.
- Emotional barriers.

Many people have become experts at protecting themselves > **fear of rejection**

### **But protection can become isolation.**

And isolation eventually becomes separation.

Jesus never removes boundaries

**But He consistently removed barriers that kept people from encountering life.**

That is what the cross does.

The cross removes separation.

The Spirit creates fellowship.

### **THE EARLY CHURCH'S FIRST CONFLICT**

**The first major conflict was about fellowship.**

It was about who gets to sit at the table. Paul publicly confronted Peter because Peter had begun separating himself from Gentile believers. The issue was bigger than food.

**It was about the basis of relationship in the Kingdom.**

Peter was rebuilding barriers that Christ had torn down. Paul understood something powerful. Paul pulled him back to relating according to the Spirit:

### **Selective friendliness or inclusion**

**The Kingdom does not relate according to race.**

- Status.
- Background.
- Culture.
- Or social position.

## The Kingdom relates according to the Spirit.

- We become family differently.
- We belong differently.
- We relate differently.

Are we going to relate to one another according to the flesh, or according to the Spirit?

## DEATH AND LIFE

John writes:

*"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brothers and sisters." (1 John 3:14)*

He does not say:

- We know we have passed from death to life because we know more doctrine.
- Or because we attend church.
- Or because we have spiritual experiences.
- He points to love expressed in relationship.

Why?

Because death and life are more than biological realities.

- They are relational realities.
- Death produces separation.
- Life produces fellowship.

The way of flesh is relationship by blood...way of the Kingdom is by spirit.

Known by the spirit

## A Different Way of Reading 1 John 3:14

*"We know God's life has entered us because we are no longer content to live separated from people."*

- Not perfectly.
- Not without boundaries.
- Not without wisdom.

**But there is now a pull toward fellowship rather than isolation.**

**Toward reconciliation rather than division.**

**Toward family rather than independence.:**

## THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

- Sin entered the world and immediately separation followed.
- Humanity hid from God.
- Adam blamed Eve.
- Sin separates.
- That is its nature.

**But when the life of God enters a person, the opposite begins to happen.**

People begin moving toward:

- God

- One another
- Reconciliation
- Fellowship
- Family

**The evidence of God's life in us is not merely that we believe differently.  
The evidence is that we relate differently.**

#### THE GOSPEL IN ONE FLOW

- Life → Fellowship → Communion
- Jesus comes near.
- The cross removes barriers.
- The Spirit creates family.
- Believers share life.

Perhaps one of the clearest evidences of resurrection life is that people who were once separated become connected.

Love overcomes separation / dislocation

#### CLOSING

The lonely crowd is built on separation.

The Kingdom is built on fellowship....

Echad > unity/fellowship within diversity

- Death divides.
- Life unites.
- Separation is the language of death.
- Fellowship is the language of life.
- And one of the clearest pieces of evidence that the life of God is working within us is that we begin moving toward people the way Jesus moved toward people.
- Because life always moves toward fellowship