

The Parchment

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Fellowship Sunday

I am calling this Sunday “Fellowship Sunday.” We will not promote all the small groups and fellowships. We also will not give you a survey or form for you to fill out regarding fellowships. Rather, since it is Communion Sunday, I would like to highlight the “commun-ity” aspect of celebrating the Lord’s Supper.

Today is a special day in a few ways. It is Pastor Jonathan Hsu’s first Sunday as the Youth and Counseling Pastor. We will bring in the new 7th graders. Many of you are back from traveling and missions. Our students are starting a new school year. We have started our new Christian Education quarter.

I am reminded of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Fellowship of the Ring*. That group of nine included a wizard, an elf, humans, hobbits, and a dwarf. Yet they gathered for one purpose, to assist Frodo Baggins in destroying the Ring. A fellowship of diverse members gathers together around something shared, found in common, such as an interest or a purpose. What do we share as a diverse English ministry? We share in Christian beliefs, a desire to worship the God of the Bible, to gather to support and keep one another accountable to live the Christian life—to name a few. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Now you

are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Notice he said that each person is a part of “it,” meaning a single entity or organism. When we look around the room, we need to remember that we are part of one another through our common faith in Christ despite our differences.

In today’s message I will share about how the fellowship at Corinth degraded when they partook of the Lord’s Supper. They did not conduct that meal in a way that honored Christ by the way they treated each other. We may recognize times when we do not have pure thoughts or behavior toward others in the body of Christ. We do not honor the body of Christ (each other) when we gossip, slander, judge, neglect, complain, hold grudges, act selfishly, etc.

Our service and love for one another (the body of Christ) comes from Christ’s example. After Jesus washed the disciple feet he taught them why he did so: *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them* (John 13:14-17). When we act in the spirit of Christ’s love, we show we are His servants and followers and honor his Lordship.

It is an incredible blessing to share in someone so precious, our Lord Jesus, with one another. May our fellowship reflect the reality of the unity we have in Him.