

Melva's Corner

“FELLOWSHIP”

August 29, 2005

Bible Text: Matthew 18:20

Central Truth: Let's recognize that each time we are with other followers of Jesus that He joins us and makes that gathering a holy moment.

He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. (John 1:3 NLT) [Jesus said] "For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Peter uses the phrase "manifold grace" (I Peter 4:10 NAS) to describe the gifts we are given to use in the church. I believe this phrase also describes the incredible natural beauty that the Lord has given us in His creation. No matter where I maybe these days, I am always looking for the face of Jesus. And His creation is a splendid example of His existence.

The New Testament reminds us that Jesus was intimately involved in the creation of all of that beauty and He continues to uphold the world by His Word. (Hebrews 1:1-3; I Corinthians 8:6) In the beauty of our world, with all of its variety and majesty, we catch a glimpse of the Savior and His powerful creativity! (cf. Romans 1:20) If we choose to listen, we can hear the voice of creation proclaim His greatness. (Psalm 19:1-6) To experience the beauty of creation is to hear the whispers of the Lord's formative voice.

As wonderful as catching glimpses of the Lord's glory in creation may be, the best glimpse of the face of the Savior is not just tied to the beauty of creation. It can best be seen in the generosity, the warmth, the hospitality, and the grace of God's people in worship, fellowship, and friendship. Believers should always make each other feel at home and welcomed as long lost members of their family. Even when we are a long way from home, we know we are among family.

So often, we let the critical and cynical bombardment of our TV-conditioned and consumer-driven age blind us to the preciousness of Christian fellowship. Jesus told His first followers that when they met, He would be with them. **(Matthew 18:20)** Paul reminded the Corinthians that when they met in the Lord's name, that the Lord's power and presence was with them. **(I Corinthians 1:2; I Corinthians 5:4)**

Let's never devalue the blessed privilege of Christian fellowship. Let's recognize that each time we are with other followers of Jesus that He joins us and makes that gathering a holy moment. We can always find fault with some of those who gather; with what happens when we are there, or the particularities of how the event is arranged. The main issue remains that we gather with other flawed people. And in the middle of our flawed gatherings, our Lord joins us and makes the moment eternal. Let's choose to see the face of Jesus rather than the faults of others and ourselves.

Memory Text:

"For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)