Bible Fellowship: Is it Social or Spiritual?
Acts 2:42

Introduction:
A. Some said, ‘Today when you hear ‘fellowship,’ you can smell coffee and taste donuts.
B. “Fellowship” is a great Bible word – never used in social and recreational sense.
   1. Nothing of “fellowship” meals.
   2. Nothing of “periods” of fellowship.
C. Modern usage tied to the social gospel concept.
D. Questions that we need to before using “fellowship” so loosely.

Discussion:
I. What Is Bible “Fellowship?”
   A. A spiritual partnership (1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 John 1:3-7).
   B. Spiritual activity of this partnership - joint participation (Acts 2:42; Phil. 1:5; Phile 6).
   C. Gift growing out of that partnership (2 Cor. 9:13).
   D. Not all “joint activity” is fellowship any more than any washing is “baptism.”

II. What Is Church Work?
   A. Not all of a Christian’s work is church work.
      1. Church one of several relationships of a Christian – Domestic, Civic, Civil, Spiritual, etc.
      2. Need to keep activities separated (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
      3. Church work and individual work is not the same (1 Tim. 5:16).
   B. Social and recreational “fellowship” is does not belong in church work.

III. Where Is the Authority for “Fellowship Halls” and Gyms?
   A. Spiritual activities must the expressly authorized (cf. Lev. 10:1-5)
   B. Divine authority is expressed:
      1. In one of three ways - command, example, necessary inference.
      2. In generic and specific forms (cf. Gen. 22)
   C. We are not asking for specific authority – just the generic.
      1. We do many things without specific authority, but with generic authority.
      2. The general authority to assemble includes place, facilities, etc.
      3. The general authority to teach/preach includes place, material, etc.
      4. The general authority for recreation and social action would include place, facilities, etc.
      5. A “church building” covered by authority to assemble – no authority to cover “fellowship hall”

IV. What about Incidental Eating and Drinking in Church Building?
   A. Is a baby’s bottle and a child’s cracker parallel to a “fellowship meal”
   B. Is a water fountain the same a kitchen for social meals? (“Spigot fellowship”)
   C. Is sandwich of workman in building parallel to a “fellowship dinner?”
   D. This kind reasoning opens many doors:
      1. Would a baby sleeping on the bench be parallel to turning building into a “church hotel?”
      2. Would a janitor repairing a vacuum cleaner turn building into appliance repair business?
      3. Would preacher taking handkerchief an wiping dust of shoes parallel church shoe shine service?

Conclusion:
A. Let’s be careful with our usage of “fellowship.”
B. Let’s understand and respect the difference between individual and church activities.