

True End Times Fellowship

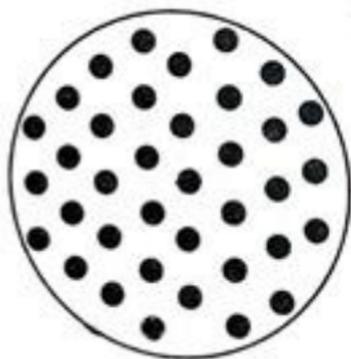
Hebrews 12:26-28 says that during the End Times, God is going to shake the world. His purpose is to remove the things that cannot remain and to make things that cannot be shaken to remain. The purpose is to help His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven (Matthew 6:10). This shaking is especially evident now in the way that Christians have fellowship.

Jewish sages have said that where two or three people come together to study and discuss the Scripture, God's presence is among them. The Lord Jesus Christ refined that in Matthew 18:20, saying, "Where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them." By saying this, Jesus was claiming that He was God. He also defined one aspect of true fellowship. True fellowship happens when two or more people meet to talk about Him.

True fellowship also happens when people meet to discuss their lives in their current situations and use the Bible to address important issues. Time, space, and the

number of participants are not as important as what is in the hearts and minds of the participants.

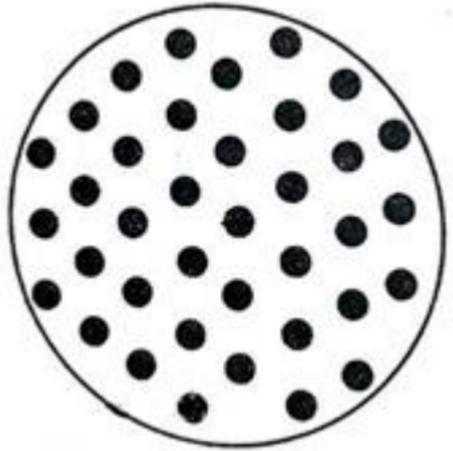
Other places in Scripture define other aspects of true fellowship. For example, we should teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), encourage one another and build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11), love and serve one another (Galatians 5:13), and exhort one another, and all the more as we see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:25).



As we live in difficult times, the diagram above can be helpful in understanding the difference between traditional Christian fellowship and the kind of fellowship that God designed for the End Times.

A bounded set is man's idea:

- Keep all the sheep in an enclosed area
- Only meet in authorized places
- Assign most of the work to professionals
- Only let professionals teach and preach the Bible
- Let the rest of the people listen
- Discourage discussion, Q&A, and interruptions
- Follow a program and suppress spontaneity
- Equate membership with being true sheep
- Assign great value to meeting attendance and following man-made rules and traditions
- Assign lesser value to obeying God's commands
- Focus energy and time on the people who attend meetings



A centered set is God's idea:

- Let the sheep come and go freely (Amos 3:3)
- Be creative in selecting meeting places (Matthew 18:20)
- Encourage everyone to use his or her gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- Let a core group at the middle provide teaching (1 Corinthians 14:29-33)
- Encourage spontaneous discussion and questions (4 Gospels of Jesus)
- Allow interruptions as long as they are Biblical, relevant and orderly (1 Corinthians 14:26-33)
- Have a plan, but follow the leading of the Holy Spirit (John 3:8)
- Make obedience to God's commands more important than meeting attendance (John 14:21)
- Each person follows the leading of Holy Spirit (John 3:8)
- Each person is part of a larger farming effort (1 Corinthians 3:7,8)

