

Faith Alive Church

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"No Substitute for Fellowship"



1 Corinthians 15:33, says; Do *not* be misled: Bad company; *corrupts* good character.

Throughout the Bible God's people are *warned* about smooth talkers and rebels that *pervert* the truths of God, for their own selfish gain - So we should be *cautious* about our associations. When we hang around *negative people*, before long we find ourselves thinking & talking negatively. And when we hang around *positive people*, we become more positive and optimistic.

Do *not* be misled: Bad or wrong company; *corrupts* good character and values. Here a *few reasons* why we should be plugged into a *good church* and in fellowship with *God's people*.

(A) We Need Pastoring: *I will give you shepherds (pastors) after my own heart, who will guide you with 'knowledge and understanding'. Jeremiah 3:15 NLT* We all need a shepherd in our lives - *someone*, who will guide us with knowledge and understanding. A *shepherd* will teach the truth of God's word-- that's *knowledge* - But they will also show us how to apply and walk out that truth--That's *understanding*. Shepherds also *love us* like God loves us. They *want* the best for us, and are *willing* to make sacrifices in their own lives to help our lives get better. They *correct* us when we need it, and *pick us up* when we fall. They are *with us* in the 'ups and downs' of life, to help us; *run* the race, *stay* the course and *keep* the faith.

(B) The *second reason* we should be plugged into a *good church* and in fellowship with God's people is: We need Encouragement: *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that they day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:25.* God's plan is to bring us together on a regular basis so that we can encourage each other in our faith. The *world* does little to encourage our faith in fact it does the opposite and tries to discourage our faith. It's trying to knock whatever faith we have out of us Monday through Friday.

We *need* faith-filled friends who will encourage us when we face challenges in life. Friends who will encourage us with a scripture or pray with us, when we are needing a boost. *We all need* those kinds of friends, and *that's exactly* who we find in church.

(C) The *third reason* we should be plugged into a *good church* and in fellowship with God's people is: We need a Purpose: *Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12*

God has given us *all* gifts. Gifts to help equip one another to fulfill the mission of His church, and that's to reach a lost and dying world. A world who needs to hear about Jesus, to see Him working through you and me. It's amazing to see ordinary, Jesus loving people like us working hand in hand, side by side each weekend as we use our gifts to share Jesus with others.

Knowing that we are glorifying God and building up His Church brings great eternal satisfaction. But be *assured*, there is no perfect church, because churches are made up of imperfect people. We are all a work in progress, aren't we? But *together* we can give the world a chance to see Jesus at work in us and through us, by His Spirit, Amen.