

# SANCTIFICATION BY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## (SET YOUR MIND—III)

### ROMANS 8:5-13

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Fellowship with other believers helps bring about the process of sanctification. The church, the pastor, and small groups (including Sunday School classes) all have complimentary roles to play.

**IN OPPORTUNITIES**—“I am thankful for my Sunday school class. They helped me get through the death of my husband.”—Ann. “My son was convicted and sent to prison. I don’t know what I would have done without my Sunday School class.”—Robert. “I told the pastor and the members that my Dad had died, but no one seemed to care. We left the church.”—Rusty. “Small groups are great way of serving the Lord and ministering to other believers and helping them to grow in their faith. They also help Christians to disciple others. With the dedication of a little time, a lot of fellowship can occur.”—Randy (**Romans 8:6, Acts 2:46, 47, fn 2:47, Galatians 6:2, fn 6:1-3, I John 4:7-12, fn 4:12[2<sup>nd</sup>], Acts 17:11**) *What is essential for sanctification in Christian fellowship?*

**WITH PASTORS’ POWERFUL WORDS, “YOU NEED TO BE IN A SMALL GROUP!”**—Sanctification occurs when there is “God-revering, Scripture-saturated, corporate worship that exalts God, edifies believers, and evangelizes unbelievers” R. Kent Hughes, *The Pastor’s Book*, p.70. But also the weight of the words, “You need to be in a small group” issued by the pastor shatters resistance to participating in God-ordained sanctification in a small group setting. (**Romans 8:6, John 17:17, fn 17:17, John 13:20, Hebrews 10:24,25, fn 10:25, II Corinthians 5:17-21, fn 5:20**) *How could the church and pastor encourage each member to be involved in a small group?*

**IN SMALL GROUPS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS**—Faith strengthens faith as members are mutually encouraged by others’ faith. Discipleship grows as members study the Word, make application to their own lives, and hold each other accountable to Christ. Also, in small groups there is opportunity to demonstrate Christ’s love as the members carry one another’s burdens. Team Discipleship has found success in the following format: You study the Word and then come together for Biblical discussion led by shared lay leadership. We have found success using this method. Therefore, I believe Team Discipleship’s format should not be “I talk, you listen,” but rather Biblical discussion led by shared lay leadership, leading to fellowship, discipleship, and sanctification. (**Romans 8:12-14, Romans 1:11, 12, Romans 12:4-8, fn 12:4-8, Hebrews 6:1, 2, Isaiah 61:6, fn 61:6, Matthew 18:20, fn 18:19, 20, I Peter 2:9, 10, fn 2:9**) *How have your group meetings contributed to your sanctification?*

*Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.*

*[www.teamdiscipleship.com](http://www.teamdiscipleship.com)*