



# FOUNDATIONS

## BOOK FIVE

# Fellowship

*A blueprint for building a relationship with God*



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"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching."  
- Hebrews 10:24-25

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## FOUNDATIONS

A blueprint for building a relationship with God

# Fellowship

BOOK FIVE OF THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES

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All the books in THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES:

BOOK ONE: DISCOVER

BOOK TWO: RESPOND

BOOK THREE: BIBLE STUDY

BOOK FOUR: PRAYER

BOOK FIVE: FELLOWSHIP

BOOK SIX: EVANGELISM

BOOK SEVEN: MATURE

For more information, visit [www.CollegeGolfFellowship.com](http://www.CollegeGolfFellowship.com)  
or contact us at [info@collegegolffellowship.com](mailto:info@collegegolffellowship.com).

# Table of CONTENTS



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Overview	1
Introduction	3
Book Five - Fellowship	4
Ch. 1 - Connecting in Community	5
Ch. 2 - Connecting as the Church	9
Ch. 3 - Connecting in a Local Church	15
Review and Application	21

# OVERVIEW

Congratulations! If you are reading this, then you have completed BOOK FOUR in the FOUNDATIONS SERIES.

Remember, FOUNDATIONS is a seven book series that lays the foundation for the Christian Life and is a blueprint for building a relationship with God. DISCOVER was the first book of the series that described how you can begin a relationship with God. RESPOND was the second book and helped us understand what it means to respond to the Gospel by trusting in the Lordship of Jesus and surrendering to the power of the Holy Spirit. The remaining books will give us practical ways to respond to the Gospel through the following four spiritual disciplines: BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, and EVANGELISM, as the following diagram shows:



As we move forward in this series, we will continue to use this diagram to remind us that Jesus Christ is the axel of the wheel and very center of the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is the hub of the wheel that secures our relationship with God, keeps us connected to Jesus, empowers us to trust His Lordship, and motivates us to respond to the Gospel by living a life of faith and obedience. The four spokes in the wheel - Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, and Evangelism - represent things we can do in response to what God has already done for us in Christ. We call these activities spiritual disciplines, and they help us grow in relationship with God. The Holy Spirit will give each believer a growing desire to pursue these disciplines, helping us grow in spiritual maturity and accomplish God's purposes.

# INTRODUCTION

This is BOOK FIVE in The Foundations Series helping us grow in our relationship with God, as we respond to the Gospel and grow in Christian maturity through the spiritual discipline of Fellowship. Remember, the Christian life is all about relationships: 1.) our relationship with God and 2.) our relationship with people. The first two spokes of the Wheel Illustration discussed the two vertical spokes – Bible Study & Prayer – because they deal with how we grow in our (vertical) relationship with God. We communicate to God through prayer, and He communicates to us through His Word – The Bible. We will now turn our attention to the two horizontal spokes – Fellowship & Evangelism – because they deal with our (horizontal) relationships with people. As we grow in relationship and share our faith with believers, we are engaging in Fellowship. As we grow in relationship and share our faith with non-believers, we are engaging in Evangelism.

This book will focus on the first horizontal spoke of the Wheel Illustration – Fellowship – as we discuss the importance of connecting in Christian community and how that helps us grow in our relationship with God and others.

Remember, as we continue in this series and seek to implement these spiritual disciplines, know that everything we do in the Christian life should always be done out of a grateful response for what God has already done for us in Christ. We can never do anything to earn His love or approval. Instead, since we have already been loved and accepted because of the work of Christ on the cross, we should joyfully desire to do these disciplines to get to know this incredible God better!



# Book FIVE



## Responding to the Gospel: Growing in Your Relationship with God - Fellowship

### **OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*How would you define biblical fellowship and its importance to growing in our relationship with God?*

### **OVERVIEW:**

Fellowship is the meeting together with other followers of Jesus for the purpose of mutual encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth. Fellowship literally means “sharing in common”. If the Gospel has transformed us from the inside out, we should have a growing desire to respond by meeting regularly with other believers in order to “share in common” our new Gospel identity and all the spiritual resources that have been given to us in Christ.

In this book, we will discuss the following topics about biblical fellowship:

1. Connecting in Community
2. Connecting as the Church
3. Connecting in a local church

## Chapter One: Fellowship

### CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

#### 1. Where did our need for relational connection come from?

It is important to understand that all people have a deep longing to connect with others and belong to a community of people that share something in common.

The word “fellowship” comes from the Greek word *koinonia* and literally means “sharing in common”. From sports teams, to fraternities, to clubs, to even gangs, we all have an innate desire inside of us to belong to a group or community that gives us a purpose and makes us feel connected to something beyond ourselves.



How have you experienced this need for community? Where do you think this desire comes from? What do the following verses say about God and how He created us?

- **Genesis 1:26-31**

Remember, God existed for all eternity as Father, Son, and Spirit – living in community – each person of the Trinity loving and serving one another in perfect relational connection. Then God said, “Let us make man in *our* image”, not because He was lonely, but because He wanted to share His perfect love of the Trinity with humanity. Man and woman were thus created in the image of this trinitarian God with the same desire to be relationally connected to God and others. In Genesis 1, God gave us a big picture view of creation. Notice how everything in creation was “very good” at the end of this chapter.

In Genesis 2, the Bible describes the details of God's individual creation process for both man and woman. What is the first thing that God says is "not good" in this chapter?

- **Genesis 2:18**

Notice that sin had not entered the world at this time, yet God still says something was "not good". What do you think this means? What did God do to fix this problem?

- **Genesis 2:20-25**

What does this passage show us about God and mankind as it relates to relational connection?

When sin entered the world in Genesis 3, we quickly see the horrible consequences that transpired. Our perfect relationship with God and others was broken, but we still had a deep need to be relationally connected.

In the New Testament, how does the following passage show God's love and pursuit of people who still needed relational connection?

- **John 1:1 & 14**

Notice that God doesn't just send words or a sermon to rescue sinful people. He sends the Word of God - Jesus the Son - as a human being to show us who God is and what He is like and to reconcile us to Himself because we are relational beings and were created for relational connection.

How has sin affected our relationship with God and other people?

## 2. What is biblical Fellowship?

As we learned in the last section, we were created for relationships. Fellowship is the building of relationships with other followers of Jesus for the purpose of mutual encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth.

What goals and benefits do the following verses highlight about true biblical fellowship?

- **Hebrews 10:24-25**
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
- **Proverbs 27:17**
- **Ephesians 4:14-16**
- **Galatians 6:1-2**
- **Hebrews 3:12-13**

It is important to understand that fellowship involves both the giving and receiving of these benefits, as we seek to respond to the Gospel by pursuing people in biblical community.

How have you personally experienced any of these benefits? What benefits would you like to receive and give more of?

How is biblical fellowship different than just hanging out with friends?

# What is COLLEGE GOLF FELLOWSHIP?

College Golf Fellowship exists to come alongside college and professional golfers and invest relationally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember, fellowship means “sharing in common”. CGF provides a safe environment for people, who “share in common” golf, life, and faith, to understand and experience the love and truth found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. As people see the love of Christ lived out through authentic relationships and hear the truth of Christ shared through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is able to open hearts to respond to the good news of the Gospel. This should lead to a growing desire to be connected in fellowship, so that we can experience the incredible benefits of biblical community.



## MEMORY VERSES:

- Hebrews 10:24-25*     *Proverbs 27:17*     *Ecclesiastes 4:12*

## Chapter Two: Fellowship

### CONNECTING AS THE CHURCH

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How would you define and/or describe the word “church”?

How do the following passages describe the church?

- **Matthew 16:18**
- **Matthew 18:15-17**
- **Ephesians 5:25-27**
- **1 Peter 2:9-10**

Is this description of the church different than you expected? Why or why not?

The word “church” comes from the Greek word ***ecclesia*** and literally means “called out ones”. Therefore, whenever the “church” is mentioned in the Bible, it is never referring to a building. Instead, it is always describing a group, gathering, or assembly of “called out” believers who represent Christ to the rest of the world.



With a better understanding of what the church actually is, how would you respond to someone who says the following:

*“I don’t think you need to go to church to be a Christian.”?*

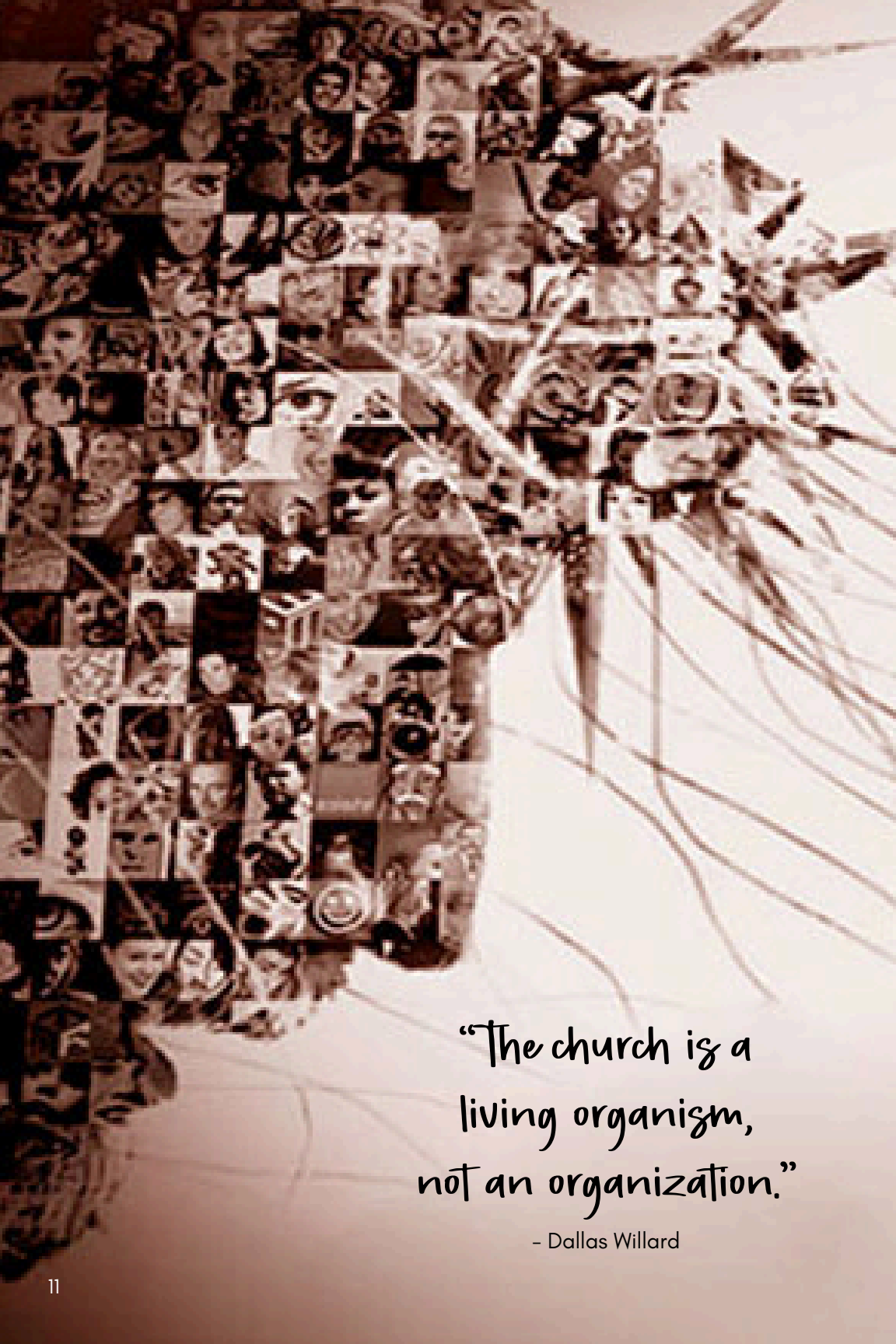
Remember, the church is not a building, it is a gathering of people. Therefore, as Christians, we must understand that we do not just **go** to church. Instead, we **are** the church, as we gather together for mutual encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth!

What stands out about the metaphor describing the church in the following verses?

- **Colossians 1:18**
- **Romans 12:4-5**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

How does this metaphor of a living organism - the body of Christ - help you better understand your relationship to Christ and to other believers? How is this similar and/or different to your understanding or experience of the church?

What does this metaphor tell us about the unity and diversity that should exist within the church? Have you seen this in your church experience? Why or why not?”



*“The church is a  
living organism,  
not an organization.”*

- Dallas Willard



It is important to understand that Scripture describes the church as the “body of Christ”, and Jesus is called the “head” of “His body”. Therefore, as believers, we are each individual members of Christ’s body with a distinct purpose and role that is paramount within the body. Remember, we don’t **go** to church, we **are** the church. Therefore, we are the body of Christ, as we gather together under the authority and leadership of Jesus for mutual encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth.

If we truly understand that the biblical concept of the church not being a building, but a gathering of people, we will begin to understand the importance of “being the church” to one another. To help us “be the church”, the Bible gives us 59 “one another” commands to show us how to be the body of Christ to other believers (see next page for examples).

The phrase “one another” in the Bible is derived from the Greek word **allelon** which means “one another, each other, or mutually reciprocal.” Therefore, we should mutually reciprocate these “one anothers” to each other as Christ’s body living out true biblical fellowship.

Remember, if we truly understand the Gospel and what Jesus has done for us, we should have a growing desire to respond to Him by living out these “one anothers”. As we do so, we are truly “being the church” or the body of Christ. This forms the basis for all true Christian community, and it has a direct impact on the world around us. What is the result found in the following verse:

- **John 13:35**

 **MEMORY VERSES:**

**John 13:35**

**Galatians 6:2**

**Ephesians 4:32**

# "One Another" Commands:

- Which of the following "one another" commands stand out to you?
- What do you think would happen if the church better lived out these "one another" commands?

Stir up one another to  
love and good works

-Hebrews 10:24

Be likeminded towards  
one another

-Romans 15:5

Bear one another's  
burdens

-Galatians 6:2

Love one another

-John 13:34

Do not slander  
one another

-James 4:11

Teach one  
another

-Colossians 3:16

Serve one another

-Galatians 5:13

Let us not become conceited,  
provoking and envying one another

-Galatians 5:26

Accept one another

-Romans 15:7

Submit to  
one another

-Ephesians 5:21

Live in harmony  
with one another

-Romans 12:16

Stop passing judgment on  
one another  
-Romans 14:13

Confess your sins  
to one another  
-James 5:16

Do not grumble against  
one another  
-James 5:9

Speak the truth  
in love to one another  
-Ephesians 4:15

Be devoted to  
one another  
-Romans 12:10

Show hospitality to  
one another  
-1 Peter 4:9

Build up  
one another  
-1 Thessalonians 5:11

Honor one another  
above yourselves  
-Romans 12:10

Forgive one another  
-Ephesians 4:32

Do not lie to  
one another  
-Colossians 3:9

Be kind and compassionate  
to one another  
-Ephesians 4:32

Be patient with  
one another  
-Ephesians 4:2

## Chapter Three: Fellowship CONNECTING IN A LOCAL CHURCH

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How has your prior local church experience positively or negatively your relationship with God?

What were the distinguishing marks and purposes of the early church?

- **Acts 2:42-47**

How does the following passage describe how the local church should function?

- **Ephesians 4:11-16**

What stands out in who is doing the work of the ministry versus the equipping?

From these passages, why do you think it is so important to be connected in a local church?

How can you see yourself getting better connected and equipped to serve in a local church?

As we have discussed, it is paramount that every believer get connected in a local church and begin serving. In order to do so, it helps to understand how God has uniquely gifted you to serve.

What do the following verses tell us about spiritual gifts and how we should use them in the body of Christ?

- **1 Corinthians 12:4-14**

- **Romans 12:4-8**

- **1 Peter 2:9-11**



## Identifying your SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Do you know what spiritual gifts the Lord has given you? If so, how did you come to understand your gifting and how are you using them?

Try using the Spiritual Gifts Test on the right to see how God has potentially gifted you. After identifying your gifts, start using them by serving in a local church and see if other believers affirm your gifting.



Think on this...



# ILLUSTRATION

Beyond spiritual gifts, God has uniquely designed each individual believer to serve and live out God's purposes in the local church and throughout the world. The following acronym may help you understand how God has given you a unique **SHAPE** within the body of Christ:

**S**

piritual Gifts - What spiritual gifts has God given you?

**H**

heart - What do you have a heart for? What are you passionate about?

**A**

bilities - What special abilities and talents has God given you?

**P**

ersonality - What is your personality?

**E**

xperiences - What unique experiences has God given you?

Use the next page to write out your answers to each of these questions, as you think about how God has given you a unique SHAPE to relate to people and serve in and through the local church.



Now it's your  
turn!



piritual Gifts

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heart

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bilities

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ersonality

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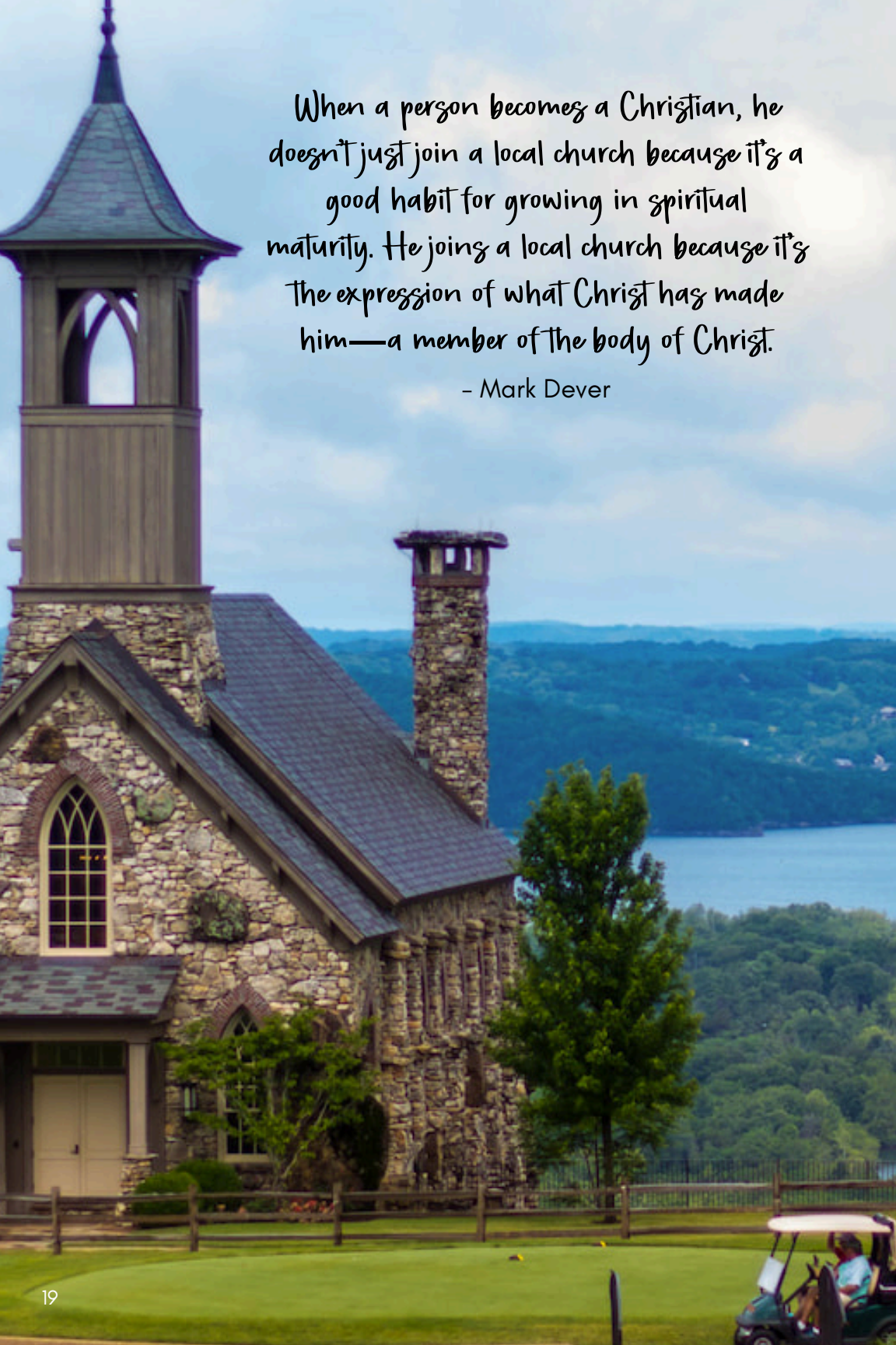


xperiences

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A stone church with a steeple and a chimney, set against a backdrop of a lake and mountains. The church is built with rough-hewn stone and has a dark blue roof. A tall, square chimney is visible on the right side of the building. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a wooden fence. In the background, there is a large body of water and rolling green hills under a blue sky with light clouds.

When a person becomes a Christian, he doesn't just join a local church because it's a good habit for growing in spiritual maturity. He joins a local church because it's the expression of what Christ has made him—a member of the body of Christ.

- Mark Dever



## Fellowship Challenge

Who is one person farther along in their faith journey that you would like to start meeting more often with who can encourage you in your spiritual life?

Who is one person not as far along in their faith journey as you that you could start meeting with to spur on in their faith?

Who is one person at a similar spot as you spiritually that you could start meeting with regularly to hold each other accountable to growing in your relationship with God?

## Need help finding a good LOCAL CHURCH?



Here are a few qualities to look for in a good local church:

1. Gospel-centered - salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone
2. Biblical-teaching - God's Word is authority for life, faith, and doctrine
3. Worship in spirit and truth
4. Clear vision for discipleship and evangelism
5. Getting connected in community groups promoted
6. Encourages missional living locally and abroad

If you need help finding a good church, contact a CGF staff!

## Foundations Book Five REVIEW AND APPLICATION

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In this book, we have looked at what true biblical fellowship is and why it is so important to respond to the Gospel by getting connected in Christian community. As Scripture shows, we were created for relationships: (1.) relationship with God and (2.) relationship with people. In order to grow in our relationship with God, we must connect with others who are also seeking to grow spiritually for mutual encouragement, accountability and spiritual growth. As we give and receive in biblical fellowship, the body of Christ will be built up and unified under the authority and leadership of Jesus Christ.

Review Questions:

1. How did the concepts in this book change your understanding of fellowship and the ultimate purposes of the Church?
2. What are one or two things you learned from this book that you would like to put into practice? How are you going to implement these things?
3. Think about how God has given you a unique SHAPE to connect and serve in your local church. How do you plan on serving and using your gifts in your local church?



## Final Thoughts:

Remember, as the body of Christ, we gather together as the church to build relationships with other believers and grow in our relationship with God (**discipleship**), so that we can be equipped to scatter throughout the week to build relationships with non-believers, represent Jesus to them, and share the Gospel (**evangelism**), in hopes that they will trust Jesus for salvation and join us when we gather again as the church.

In our next book, we will take a look at the final horizontal spoke - evangelism - as we seek to build relationships with our non-believing family and friends and introduce them to Jesus.



Remember, the motivation for engaging in “spiritual disciplines” should not be out of a sense of duty or obligation, but out of a grateful heart for what God has already done for us. As we reflect on the unconditional love and acceptance God has given to us through the person and work of Christ, our affections should be stirred for the Lord and give us a greater desire to get to know Him better. The rest of the FOUNDATIONS SERIES will provide insight to help us better develop the following four spiritual disciplines: Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, and Evangelism. As we respond to the Gospel by implementing these disciplines, we will be putting ourselves in a place where the Holy Spirit can grow us into the image of Jesus, as we bear a family resemblance of our new identity in Christ.

As we put in motion the disciplines in the wheel diagram, we will begin to get traction in our faith journey and the wheel will begin to move as we continue to grow in spiritual maturity.



*Up next:*

## **THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES**

**BOOK SIX: EVANGELISM**

## NOTES AND RESPONSES

## NOTES AND RESPONSES



# College Golf Fellowship

College Golf Fellowship exists to encourage you in golf, life, and faith. We desire to come alongside you and show you what an authentic relationship with Jesus looks like. We hope this series helps you lay a solid foundation for your entire life.

## THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES

BOOK ONE: DISCOVER

BOOK TWO: RESPOND

BOOK THREE: BIBLE STUDY

BOOK FOUR: PRAYER

BOOK FIVE: FELLOWSHIP

BOOK SIX: EVANGELISM

BOOK SEVEN: MATURE



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