



## points to ponder

**What makes you feel connected at church? Is it different than how you feel connected in the community?**

## words to wrangle

**How are the words "grace" and "favor" connected? What does this say about fellowship? How should they increase?**

## conclusions to consider

**What allows you to grow in favor with both God and man? How does this process affect fellowship?**

read the daily Bible verses at the KBS website

How do you experience more or better fellowship? Does fellowship come in degrees? Is it a skill that can be developed? Are there intimacy levels for fellowship?

Have you noticed the way your mind, body and spirit are inseparably woven? When you spend time exercising the body, your mind and spirit are also energized and strengthened. What affects one will naturally effect the others.

Fellowship works exactly the same way. When we deepen our closeness and intimacy with God, our relationships with others experiences renewed vigor and energy. There is an interesting passage of Scripture that speaks to this truth, though we don't often apply it to the process of fellowship.

As Jesus was progressing from His youth to adulthood, Luke records, "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52 ESV). We usually apply this to His physical growth, but stature is used to describe maturity. Don't relationships usually take maturity to prosper?

As we learn how life works, how God's principles apply to circumstances and individuals, we grow in our understanding of who we are in relationship to who God is. We perceive how our walk with God should be and how that walk touches others.

Two words in the passage to consider are "favor" and "increase." Learning, wisdom and fellowship are gradual. They do not happen overnight. Spending time each day in Scripture, each day in prayer, each day with other Christians allows fellowship to flourish.

Understanding that building relationships – with God and with people and with how the two are intertwined – is an ever-changing process which develops and strengthens over time is crucial for true fellowship.