

How is Your Fellowship (Swordmanship)?

Arthur Barry

Among the admonishments that God has given us in the Bible there are many that deal with fellowship. I would like to focus on two that speak about the peace and strength of the Body of Christ, but from different perspectives.

1. *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*
Proverbs 27:17
2. *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*
1 John 4:1

Both tell us we cannot live out our faith lives alone. One emphasizes the personal benefit of engaging others in fellowship, and one emphasizes the responsibility to engage others in order to protect that fellowship.

Proverbs 27:17 expresses the beauty of fellowship from the perspective that we all can help each other grow stronger through interaction with each other. The obvious conclusion is that we need **Christian interaction** with fellow Christians. When John wrote his epistle he was acutely aware of a threat to the very basis of that fellowship. Therefore, his admonishment was to “take on” false prophets by testing spirits. Iron sharpening iron is a reference to swords, and swords are weapons.

Ephesians 6:17 refers to a Christian’s *sword of the spirit* as being the Word of God. Is there any doubt that in order for soldiers to fight together they must train together?

I have never really understood the *sport* of fencing, but it offers a helpful picture here. We need a partner to fence with if we are going to be good with a sword. So it is with God’s Word; we need others to work out with. If there comes a time when the fellowship is threatened by false teaching, then the swordplay will come in useful.

Are you getting enough swordplay?



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
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December 11, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

I Corinthians 1:26

Today’s Sermon: *What Is Man? 2*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: December 18th. Ideas for a theme welcome!**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, December 13th at the building. We are using Human and Holy by Michelle Goff. We are preparing chapter 11 for Tuesday.**
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted!**



- Last Saturday we were treated to an awesome Thanksgiving dinner! Pat and Robin Gutherie and Randy and Barb Salsgiver from the Kittanning, PA church traveled 5 hours up here, cooked and prepared the entire meal for 25 of us and decorated the tables and served it to us. **There are two thank-you cards on the back table for you to sign, one for each couple.**
- Darlene and Doug Elsbree will be flying to FL tomorrow to spend a week with her father, Richard Beiber. He has not been given much hope with his cancer.
- The brethren at Kittanning have given us a generous donation for presents for less fortunate area residents. We have started compiling a list, including sizes, preferences, etc. Please let Arthur know if you know of any person or family to add to the list.
- Our church has been in contact with two area organizations that help people in need. We would like to help them with a donation from church funds, but you can also donate to these worthy groups independently. **Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center** (First Look Pregnancy Center) is located at 209 Lockhart St., Sayre. Their mission is to change the hearts of women who seek abortion and provide a caring alternative. **Children's House**, sponsored by Children's Advocacy Center, takes in abused children. It is located in Towanda, PA.

PRAYERS...

- Patty and Ruthie's sister in law, Deborah, has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer and is currently on chemo.
- Endless Mountains Pregnancy Center requests prayers for their clients, that abortion-minded women will have a change of heart, and that all will accept the abundant life in Christ.
- Sam Olonguen asks for prayers for himself, as he has several important exams coming up at college.
- Remember to pray for Lori Kashorek, from the Plattsburgh, NY church, who has lung cancer.
- "Rocky" Perry of Sayre asked for prayers for struggles he is trying to overcome in his life, and pray that his Bible study will lead him to the Truth.
- Pray for Richard Beiber, Darlene's father, who has been diagnosed with throat cancer.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and their search for a preacher.
- Pray for comfort for those from war-torn countries who have no homes, are starving and without water and are not safe and have lost friends and relatives in the violence that surrounds them.
- Remember to pray for Matthew Lowe in Ohio, Ken Wilkins, of Gray, TN, and Edna Jarrett, of the Bronx.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.