

## 5 Biblical Ingredients of Fellowship

an acronym: S.P.A.C.E.

**S = Same Sex:** 2 Sam.1:26 (like David & Jonathan) Prov.27:17

**P = Prayer** James 5:15, 16b; Luke 11:5-11; 18:1

**A = Accountability:** ie., challenging you; setting goals! Prv.27:17

**C = Confession:** James 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9; Mt.6:14-15

**E = Equally Yoked in Passion:** Prov.13:20; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor.6:14ff

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## Hindrances to Fellowship: A Trouble-shooting Guide

*Problem*

*Solution*

Busyness	Create boundaries with your work hours. Create financial margin so that you can work less. Trust God for a "family friendly" job.
One-way relationships: i.e., you're giving but not receiving as much.	Prioritize mutually enjoyable friendships. (Discipleship is important; but, fellowship is too!)
You're Not Life-Giving: i.e., You're a big-mouth; a bad listener; you whine a lot; you're depressed all the time; you're domineering; over-sensitive; self-absorbed; judgmental; easily offended; cynical & always critiquing things; etc..	Identify & work on your top weaknesses. Ask 'spiritual friends' to be honest with you about your quirks... & be prepared to listen without offense. Take a personality test (like the Myers-Briggs) to identify overly-strong personality traits.
You're Geographically Challenged: i.e., you live a bit far away.	Trust God for a "fellowship" friendly house/apt. Be willing to drive a lot. Make extra efforts to connect with Christians who live near you.
No Chemistry or Authentic Spiritual Conversations:	Be open to fellowship with diverse people. Look for <i>maturity and passion</i> over smaller criteria such as <i>age, style, or season of life</i> .
You've Tried it All: i.e., you've done it all; yet, you still can't find fellowship.	Be patient ... & Pray for good fellowship regularly. Re-consider the above solutions. (You may think you've done it all... when you're really just impatient & unteachable!) After exhausting the above: find a new church.

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