

A large, dark shadow of two people standing side-by-side is cast onto a vibrant green lawn. The shadow is positioned in the upper half of the frame, suggesting the sun is high in the sky. The grass is lush and green, with some texture visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**Does Fellowship Need A Hall?**

# Is This Issue Relevant?

*“It is not the mission of the church to furnish amusement for the world or even for its own members. Innocent amusement in proper proportion has its place in the life of all normal persons but it is not the business of the church to furnish it...The church was not established to feature athletics...For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. It is to degrade its mission....Building recreation rooms, and providing and supervising recreational activities at the expense of the church, is a departure from the simple gospel plan as revealed in the New Testament...The church might as well relieve the parents of feeding and disciplining all of the young people at church expense as to take over the job of entertaining and supervising the recreation at church expense”*

# “Why Should I Care?”

2 Timothy 1:13, Titus 1:9, 1  
Corinthians 4:17, 14:37

# The Term Fellowship

- Can we justify fellowship halls because they facilitate fellowship? Perhaps we should take a step back and biblically define “fellowship”:
  - Partnership in spiritual things (Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 13:14, Galatians 2:9, Ephesians 3:9, Philippians 2:1).
  - Partnership in benevolence to other saints (Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 8:4, 9:13).
  - Partnership in supporting a preacher (Philippians 1:5).
  - Partnership in the sufferings of Christ (Philippians 3:10).
  - The Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 10:16).

# “What about Corinth?”

1 Corinthians 11:27-22, 34

# Various Arguments

- ***“Didn’t Jesus feed the multitudes?”*** – Jesus did a lot of things, as an individual, that nobody would suggest we do now as a church.
- ***“What about Acts 6:1 or Acts 2:46? What about ‘love feasts’?”*** – Keep these examples in context. Is it benevolence? Is it the communion?
- ***“You just think the building is sacred!”*** – Hardly! We just try to use our building for the actual work that God expects us to do...

A large, dark shadow of a church building is cast onto a bright green lawn. The shadow is positioned in the upper center of the image, suggesting a bright sun high in the sky. The lawn is a vibrant, uniform green, and the shadow is a dark, almost black silhouette of a traditional church with a steeple.

# A Church That Isn't Its Building

John 4:19-24 – Our identity should never be wrapped up in a building!