INGREDIENTS IN FELLOWSHIP

(Philippians 1:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

- "Ingredients" the substances that make up a mixture or compound; parts making up the whole.
- **"Fellowship"** (Gr. koinonia) denotes a partaker or partner; relationship; attachment; community; communion; family; togetherness; things in common.

1. HUMILITY

"Bondservants of Jesus Christ" - servant; slave; deacon; to minister; attendant. Jesus was both "bondservant" and "humble" - (Philippians 2:5-7)

2. UNITY

- (v1) "to all the saints ... with the bishops and deacons"
- (v7) "... you all are partakers with me of grace"

3. DIVERSITY

A business-woman, a jailor, their households, saints, bishops, and deacons. Look around the auditorium (don't point) and see the diversity in our fellowship. Judson Edwards: "If Everybody Was Just Like Me".

4. HEART-FELT THANKS FOR ONE ANOTHER

(v3) "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you"
(v7) "I have you in my heart" (v8) "how greatly I long for you"
Gratitude for the church by Paul: (1 Cor. 1:4; Ephesians 1:15-16; Colossians 1:3)

5. STABILITY

(v5) "your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now"
(v6) "that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ"
(v27) "stand fast"
(2:12-13) "as you have always obeyed ... work ... God who works in you ... "

6. LET LOVE ABOUND

(v9) "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more ... "
(Hebrews 6:9-12) "things that accompany salvation ... your work and labor of love ... each one of you show the same diligence ... do not become sluggish ... "

7. MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

- (v10) "that you may approve the things that are excellent" (1 Thessalonians 5:21; Romans 12:1-2)
- (v10) " ... be sincere and without offense" be genuine in Christian living and don't give someone reason to doubt your sincerity.
- (v11) "being filled with righteousness" it's a lesson on deportment.
- (v11) " ... to the glory and praise of God"
 (Matthew 5:16; Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 6:20)

CLOSE: May God help us to establish these traits in the congregation.