Transformed in Christ: Growing in Fellowship, Bearing Fruit Together.

Good morning, church!

Are you happy to be in the house of the Lord on this first Sunday of October? Praise the Lord!

Just look at how far the Lord has brought us! By His grace, we have entered the final three months of 2026. Through every joy, challenge, and season, God has remained good, faithful, and worthy of all our praise.

Before I begin my sermon, I would like to express my gratitude to our Pastor, pastor Thomas Shelwah for giving me the privilege of launching our erea Fellowship Month.

Above all, I give thanks to God for His unfailing goodness and mercy. As the Bible reminds us, His mercies are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness!

To everyone worshipping with us today, thank you for coming. Whether you are a member of IFC Church or visiting us IFC Church, we are glad to welcome you. We believe that you are not here by accident. God has brought us together for a purpose.

Please open your Bibles to Acts 2:40–47, and let us read the Word of God.

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be
saved from this [a]perverse generation.” 41 Then those who [b]gladly
received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls
were added *to them.* 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’
[c]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then
fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done

through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and [d]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[e] them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [f]to the church daily those who were being saved.

Introduction

This morning, I would like us to reflect on the topic: **"Transformed in Jesus Christ: Growing in Fellowship and Bearing Fruit Together."**

Acts 2:40–47 shows us the result of Peter's first sermon after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost.

Something extraordinary happened through the preaching of the gospel. Verse 41 says:

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

Jesus had trained the twelve apostles. After His resurrection and ascension, about 120 believers were gathered together in Jerusalem. Then, following Peter's sermon the day of pentecost, God added about three thousand people to their fellowship in a single day. What a powerful miracle!

Overnight, the church grew from a small group of mainly Galilean believers into a large and diverse community. People from many nations had come to Jerusalem for Pentecost. Among them were Jews and converts to

Judaism from regions across the world known at that time, including places in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Acts 2:5 tells us that they were devout people “from every nation under heaven.” They were amazed because each person heard the disciples declaring the wonderful works of God in his or her own language.

Peter proclamed the gospel for the first time to this diverse crowd. Those who received the gospel repented, believed, and were baptized.

Brothers and sisters, we are blessed to be part of a church made up of people from many nations. In many ways, IFC reflects the early Church, where people from different nations were united by their faith in Jesus Christ.

However, we should never forget our humble beginnings. Just as Jesus began with a small group of Galileans, IFC began with a small group of missionaries meeting in a living room. This is why we say that IFC is a cell-based church. Our cell groups remind us of where we started and help us continue to grow together in faith, fellowship, and love.

Transformed in Christ

Brothers and sisters, Peter could not transform three thousand people by his own strength. This was the same Peter who had once denied Jesus. But when he was filled with the Holy Spirit, God used his preaching to lead a great crowd to Christ. Jesus Christ was the true source of their transformation.

Peter’s sermon touched the hearts of those who heard him. Acts 2:37–38 says:

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Bretren, The transformation of the disciples in the early Church did not begin with their own efforts to become better people. It began with what God had done for them through Jesus Christ and with the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They were saved by grace and called to live a new life that produced good works empowered by the Holy Spirit. **Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord**

Brothers and sisters, transformation in Christ affects every part of the ealy disciples lives. God gives them new life, unites them with Christ, gradually changes their character, and prepares them to serve Him and be His witnesses. This process begun when they gave their lives to Christ.

John 15:5 says:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing.”

To bear fruit, we must remain connected to Jesus. No Jesus, no fruit.

As a church, a cell group, or a ministry, we must ask ourselves: What unites us? Is it the English language? Is it our work, our positions, our countries, our activities, or our Entertainment? Who is our vine? Who is the true source of our transformation ? Who unite us as a cell? Who is the boss of IFC ? Who is the boss of our cell group or ministry ?

If our answer is Jesus Christ, the true Vine, and we understand that we are only the branches, then we are truly united. But if our unity depends on our leaders, countries, english, social positions, or personal interests, then we are in trouble. **Our unity must be found in Christ alone.**

We should love, respect, and support our pastors. However, our commitment to the church must not depend only on their presence. If the church is full when the pastor preaches but empty when he is away, something is wrong. We gather first to worship Jesus Christ, because He is the Head of the Church and the true Vine.

May the Lord help us to remain firmly united with Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit transform our lives, strengthen our fellowship, and help us bear fruit together for the glory of God. Amen.

Growing in Fellowship

Transformation in Christ was not the end of the story. The new believers entered a life of fellowship as members of God's family. Peter's sermon did not produce isolated disciples. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter's sermon formed a growing community devoted to Christ and to one another.

Acts 2:42 says:

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

The early disciples understood that they could not grow or remain strong without fellowship. Their thinking changed from "I go to the temple" to "I belong to the Church, the body of Christ."

Brothers and sisters, the Church is more than a building or a place we visit. The Church is God's people living, growing, and serving together under the kingdome of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

What is fellowship ?

Christian fellowship means sharing the life we have in Christ one an other. Christian fellowship is more than a social gathering. It is a spiritual relationship in which we help one another grow. The ealy disciples learned God's Word, prayed, worshipped, shared meals, and cared for those in need. They met in the temple and from house to house with joy and sincere hearts.

In the same way, our area fellowships and ministries give us opportunities to: study God's Word together; pray and worship together; carry one another's burdens; encourage spiritual growth; practise forgiveness and reconciliation; serve one another with our spiritual gifts; participate together in God's mission.

Dear bretren, Online fellowship can be helpful, but it has limits. We also need personal relationships and face-to-face fellowship. God calls us to listen to one another, support one another, and walk together in faith.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ does not transform us so that we may live as isolated believers. Salvation is personal, but the Christian life is

shared. Christ saves us, joins us to His body, and connects us to Himself as branches connected to the vine.

When a branch is separated from the vine, it can no longer receive the life and strength it needs. It becomes dry and cannot bear fruit. In the same way, when we do not remain connected to Jesus Christ and to one another, we cannot bear lasting spiritual fruit. Jesus is our source of life and strength. No Jesus, no fruit.

Fellowship is not our final goal. Our goal is to become a community that glorifies God, reflects Christ, and participates in His mission. We grow in fellowship so that we may become more like Christ and bear fruit together.

Bearing Fruit Together

Brethren, biblical fruit is the visible result of Christ's life in us**.** As we remain connected to Christ, the Holy Spirit develops His character in us. According to Galatians 5:22–23, this fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It becomes visible in our attitudes, words, relationships, humility, integrity, and holiness.

Fruit also includes the good works that God prepares us to do. As Ephesians 2:10 teaches, we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. We bear fruit when we care for people in need, serve the Church, practice generosity and reconciliation, work with integrity, and use our gifts to help others. These works do not save us, but they show that God is transforming us.

Finally, fruitfulness includes sharing the gospel, helping others follow Jesus, and living in unity and love. Jesus connects bearing fruit with His command to love one another in John 15. Therefore, a fruitful church is a

community that reflects Christ, makes disciples, serves others, and works together for God's glory.

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters, we are transformed by Christ, united as His people, and empowered to bear fruit together for the glory of God.

May we all stand in an attitude of prayer, please? Take the hands of the people beside you, and let us pray together. I also invite the musicians and the media team to join us. Please find someone near you, and let us seek the Lord together as one family in Christ.

Prayer point :

Let us pray that God will strengthen the fellowship within IFC, our area fellowships, cell groups, and ministries. May He help us love, forgive, encourage, and care for one another as one family in Christ.

You're my brother, you're my sister
So take me by the hand
Together we will work until He comes
There's no foe that can defeat us
When we're walking side by side
So long as there is love
We will stand