



Biblical Fellowship

1 John 1:1-7

INTRODUCTION

- A. TWO ETERNAL BLESSINGS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
 - 1. The Blessing of Relationship - John 1:1-14 (Father – Child)
 - 2. The Blessing of Fellowship – 1 John 1-7

- B. Admonition to keep on the fellowship of the brethren. Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- C. Looking at Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32, we discovered that it was when the two sons were in fellowship with the Father that they enjoyed the father's company and blessings. This parable set the stage and the right stepping stone as we explore the Biblical teaching on Fellowship that is essential to every believer's growth.

I. WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP

- A. Fellowship is from two words put together. The first one is *fellow* which means a companion or a comrade. The second one is *ship* a suffix which means a state, condition or quality. Putting these two, we have the word fellowship, which does, not only denotes companionship, but also carrier the idea of quality in that companionship. Thus, it is safe to say that fellowship is a quality companionship or a high level companionship.

- B. In the Bible, the word Fellowship is from the Greek word *Koinonia*. *Koinonia* denotes: A business partnership, union. It has the essence of mutual understanding, appreciation, sharing, and concern. It is not a one sided affair.
- C. Biblical Fellowship then is a companionship where there is an understanding of the mind, agreeing of the heart, communing of the spirit, and coming together of two or more individuals on common foundation and the foundation is Christ. **1 John 1:3** *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

- A. It is a Living Fellowship.** It is living because the source of this fellowship is Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Since it is a living fellowship, then there is life; there is joy, happiness, and movement.
- B. It is an Eternal Fellowship.** The fellowship on earth is the foretaste and the beginning of what Believer's will enjoy in the presence of God.
- C. It is Transparent Fellowship.** Everything is done in the light of Christ. There is no hidden agenda, no selfish intentions. There is no openness of heart, soul, and spirit.
- D. It is Mutual Fellowship.** There is compliment not competition. Criticisms are constructive not destructive. There is mutual concern, understanding, and sharing.

III. CONDITIONS OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

A. Relationship

Relationship is the first condition of Biblical fellowship. To be specific, our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. John 1:12-13 says: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

Without this relationship with God, it is impossible to have a fellowship with Him and with others.

B. Agreement

Amos 3:3 says: Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos points out a very important issue here and that is agreement, agreement in what? 1 John 1:6-7 | we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

This Scripture tells us that the agreement should be on the terms that God had established in his Word. In this case, that is the agreement to walk in the light. How are we to walk in the light? Two things:

1. We must first avoid the works of darkness:
 - a. Hate – 1 John 2:9-11
 - b. Love of the World – 1 John 2:15-17
 - Lust of the flesh – Sexual immorality
 - Lust of the eyes – Materialism express in envy, jealousy, selfishness

- Pride of life – Critical spirit, apathy, rebellion, inferiority (looking down at yourself), superiority (looking down at others), desire for recognition and praise, boasting of what you possess and have done, arrogance.
2. We must practice the works of the Light
 - a. Love – Matthew 22:37-40; 1 John 2:10; 3:11, 14, 16-18; 1 Corinthians 13
 - b. Obedience – 1 John 2:3-6; 1 Samuel 15:22-23

IV. BENEFITS OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

- A. Fellowship is the vehicle of intimacy to a relationship. Without fellowship there is no way to experience intimacy in marriage, in friendship, in our relationship with God, or in any kind of relationship we have.
- B. Fellowship brings meaning and fulfillment to a relationship. Relationship is dull and boring without fellowship. It is fellowship where we learn to know each other deeply, where we learn to forgive one another, where we also have laughter and fun.
- C. Fellowship helps us grow and glow in the Lord Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” This Scripture could not be fulfilled apart from fellowship. But a firewood that is separated from the rest, could not maintain its glow and sooner or later its glow will die.
- D. Fellowship protects us from the devil’s attack. 1 Peter 5:8 says, Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. In this Scripture, the devil is likened to a roaring lion.

We all know that no matter how and fierce a lion is, but it will only attack those who are weak and isolated. As long as its intended victim is strong and with the group, it will not be attacked. Likewise, it when a believer is weak because of lack of fellowship that he or she becomes vulnerable to the attack of the enemy. Strayed sheep is the common victim of a wolf.

- E. Fellowship preserves us from corruptions. **1 Corinthians 15:33** says, *“Do not be misled: Bad a company corrupts good character”*. **2 Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”*

These Scriptures clearly tells us that it is fellowship that preserves us from being corrupted by the world brought by bad company.

- F. Fellowship prepares us for the second coming of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- G. Fellowship Teaches us to:
1. Bear one another’s burden – **Galatians 6:2**
 2. Pray for one another – **1 Thessalonians 5:25**
 3. Comfort one another – **1 Thessalonians 4:18**
 4. Serve one another – **Colossians 4:7**

CONCLUSION

REAL BELIEVERS

Love to be together

Love to talk together

Love to laugh together (not at each other)

Love to pray together

Love to sing together

.... Just to be together