

Title: BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Text: 1 John 1:1-10

Intro: *"Fellowship"* is used at least 17X in the KJB, 5X in our scripture reading alone. Fellowship has often been the center of controversy in our day of proud religious groups. Most people use *"fellowship"* to mean friendship, partnership or socializing with believers (which is partly true); but real Christian fellowship is more than just these secular ideas.

I. FELLOWSHIP DEFINED

A. Fellowship is a spiritual commitment and relationship between two persons who share a common goal, and work together to fulfill that goal. There can be no true fellowship without commitment and relationship with persons involved.

B. The first mention of the word *"fellowship"* is found in **Lev. 6:2**. Here, the Lord holds the guilty party responsible for fraud regarding missing or stolen property where a fellowship (commitment) was in effect between two parties.

C. The first time the word *"fellowship"* occurs in the NT is in **Acts 2:42**. The empowerment of the Church had just taken place on the day of Pentecost after the preaching of Peter and others where about 3,000 souls were added to the Church (Acts 2:41). These believers joined to the Church and were in constant cooperation with fellow believers. They had a living spiritual relationship that included a host of Christian activities while endeavoring to honor Christ and live for Him.

II. FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

A. Fellowship is not vain get-together or socializing to make one another feel good and happy. Rather, it is uniting with one another for a reason – the Gospel of Christ and ministering (**Phil. 1:3-5; 2 Cor. 8:4**).

B. Fellowship is for blood-washed saints who walk in the light of the Lord and His word (**1 John 1:7**). It has a negative aspect: discriminating the works of darkness and those who walk in it (**Eph. 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:14**).

III. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SON

A. Believers are in fellowship with Jesus Christ (**1 Cor. 1:9**). The Corinthian believers were most carnal, and yet they had been called unto fellowship with the Son of God!

B. Though the Corinthians lacked spiritual understanding, yet Paul took pains to teach them the right fellowship with the Lord (**1 Cor. 10:20**). Christians should live to please Christ our Saviour rather than being dragged by unbelievers to compromise their faith and betray the Lord Jesus.

IV. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT

A. Without the gospel of Christ, there will be no true fellowship with Christ and the saints. Christian fellowship even extends with the Spirit of God (**Phil. 2:1**). Paul also calls it "**the communion of the Spirit**" (2 Cor. 13:14).

B. When the Holy Spirit works IN and WITH a believer, fruit is produced in his life (Gal. 5:22-23) and the believer is edified. The fellowship of the Spirit guides believers into all truth and shows them things to come (John 16:13).

V. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

A. This is something that all believers are privileged to enjoy (**1 John 1:3**). The Lord knows us better than we know ourselves; but do we want to know Him better and deeper? Do we have a strong desire to draw nearer to God?

B. God wants sweet fellowship. When you go into the presence of the Father in your quiet times with Him there is that sweetness about it. You experience the presence of the Father as you read your Bible and worship Him.

C. Because the Father is light (1 John 1:5), we should walk as children of light (**1 John 1:6; Eph. 5:8**).

Conclusion: New Testament fellowship is about a born again believer in Christ called unto fellowship with the holy trinity and fellow believers for the cause of the Gospel and the ministry of the Lord. It has nothing to do with activities that promote good feelings, but rather with our whole life and deeds glorifying God and giving Him pleasure.