

Fellowship

I John 1:1-10

Fellowship

- God's Word to us is the single most important thing in our lives
- Through the Bible, God tells us of His will for us
 - *The direction we must take in our lives*
 - *Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”*

Fellowship

- One of our most important considerations must be our relationship with God
- Once that is established, we will have a special relationship with others
- The Bible refers to this relationship as “fellowship” or “communion”

What Is Fellowship?

- Secular definition of “Fellowship” – “The condition of being together or of sharing similar interests or experiences, as do members of a profession, religion, or nationality; companionship ... A union of friends or equals sharing similar interests; fraternity; brotherhood ... Friendship, comradeship.” (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*)

What Is Fellowship?

- Secular definition of “Communion” – “A possessing or sharing in common; participation ... A sharing of thoughts or feelings; intimate talk ... A religious or spiritual fellowship ... A body of Christians with a common religious faith who practice the same rites; denomination.” (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*)

What Is Fellowship?

- The Bible says – I John 1:5-7 – “5 *And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have **fellowship** with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

What Is Fellowship?

- The Bible says – I Corinthians 10:16 – *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a **communion** of the body of Christ?.”*

Bible Definitions

- κοινωνία (koinonia) – Used 20 times in the New Testament and is translated in the American Standard Version as: “fellowship, contribution, communion, dispensation, and communicate

Bible Definitions

- Acts 2:42 – *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ teaching and **fellowship**, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*
- Romans 15:26 – *“For it hath been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution** for the poor among the saints that are at Jerusalem.”*

Bible Definitions

- I Corinthians 1:9 – *“God is faithful, through whom ye were called into the **fellowship** of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
- II Corinthians 6:14 – *“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what **communion** hath light with darkness?”*

Bible Definitions

- II Corinthians 8:4 – *“beseeching us with much entreaty in regard of this grace and the **fellowship** in the ministering to the saints”*
- II Corinthians 9:13 – *“seeing that through the proving (of you) by this ministration they glorify God for the obedience of your confession unto the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of (your) **contribution** unto them and unto all”*

Bible Definitions

- II Corinthians 13:14 – *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”*
- Galatians 2:9 – *“...they who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of **fellowship**, that we should go unto the Gentiles, and they unto the circumcision”*

Bible Definitions

- Ephesians 3:9 – “and to make all men see what is the **dispensation** of the mystery which for ages hath been hid in God who created all things”
- Philippians 1:5 – “for your **fellowship** in furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now”

Bible Definitions

- Philippians 2:1 – “If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any **fellowship** of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions”
- Philippians 3:10 – “that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the **fellowship** of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death”

Bible Definitions

- Philemon 6 – “that the **fellowship** of thy faith may become effectual, in the knowledge of every good thing which is in you, unto Christ.”
- Hebrews 13:16 – “But to do good and to **communicate** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

Misuse Of “Fellowship”

- Today’s English Version – Acts 2:42 – “They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the **fellowship** meals and the prayers.”
- Today’s English Version – Acts 20:7 – “On Saturday evening we gathered together for the **fellowship** meal. Paul spoke to the people and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day.”

Misuse Of “Fellowship”

- Today’s Living Bible – Revelation 3:20 – “Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and **fellowship** with him and he with me.”

Fellowship With God

- We become His children
 - John 1:12 – “But as many as received him, to them gave he **the right to become children of God**, (even) to them that believe on his name”
 - I John 3:10 – “In this **the children of God are manifest**, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

Fellowship With God

- We now have a common participation with Him and are now His heirs
 - Romans 8:16-17 – *“16 The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are **children of God**: 17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with (him), that we may be also glorified with (him).”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 – *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”*
- Believe in that Word
 - Romans 10:11 – *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – *“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”*
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - I John 4:15 – *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - Acts 2:38 – *“And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*