



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Eleven

Fellowship

Memory Text

Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Ephesians 3:9 “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

What Is Fellowship?

- A. A Greek word being used much today is “*Koinonia*”, from which two words are translated:
- fellowship** & **communion** = “the act of suing a thing in common.”
- B. Meaning of the words:
- Fellowship**: companionship; mutual sharing; gathering of people having the same interests.
 - Communion**: to have in common; to share by all; participation, partnership.

With Whom Are We To Fellowship?

Fellowship must be two-fold in order to be effective – **Godward** and **manward**:

- A. Fellowship **vertically** – Godward
- Fellowship with the **Father**
 - I John 1:3** “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
 - Fellowship with the **Son**
 - I Corinthians 1:9** “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - I John 1:3** “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
 - Fellowship with the **Spirit**
 - Philippians 2:1** “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,”
 - II Corinthians 13:14** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

d. This Fellowship is expressed in prayer, praise, worship in the Spirit, and in truth.

- i. **John 4:23-24** ²³*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

B. Fellowship **horizontally** – manward

There must also be a two-way communication with believers:

- Fellowship one with **another**
 - **I John 1:7** *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
 - The right **hand** of fellowship
 - **Galatians 2:9** *"And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."*
 - The fellowship of the ministering to the **Saints**
 - **II Corinthians 2:4b** *"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."*
1. **Spiritually** – **Acts 2:42** *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
- a. Praying together
 - b. Singing, praising and worshipping together.
 - c. Sharing together in testimony, exhortation, encouragement; edifying one another in the Spirit's operations.
 - d. Ministry of the Word: Apostles' doctrine
 - i. **Acts 2:42** *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
 - e. Communion; breaking of bread.

In this way believers can be "emptied from vessel to vessel" in fellowship with each other. **Jeremiah 48:11**

2. **Practically** –

- a. **Acts 2:44-46** ⁴⁴*And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"*
- b. **I Timothy 5:8** *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*
 - i. **House** or home fellowship
 - 1. **Acts 2:46** ⁴⁶*"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"*
 - ii. Meeting **needs** (material needs, etc.)
 - 1. **Acts 2:45; 4:35** ⁴⁵*And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. - And laid them down at the*

apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

- iii. To **communicate**
 - 1. **Hebrews 13:16** *"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."*
- iv. **Distributing** to the necessity of the saints.
 - 1. **Romans 12:13** *"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*
- v. Getting to know and appreciate each other. Visit, etc. Fellowship becomes the way of life. There is joy in real Fellowship, meeting and sharing in spiritual, practical and social needs.

With What Are We Forbidden To Fellowship?

- A. The **World**
 - a. **Ephesians 5:11** *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."*
 - b. **Psalm 94:20** *"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?"*
- B. **Satanic** Spirits
 - a. **I Corinthians 10:20** *"²⁰But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."*
- C. **Unrighteousness**
 - a. **II Corinthians 6:14** *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*
- D. False **religion**
 - a. **II Peter 2**
 - b. **Jude 4**
- E. False **doctrine**
 - a. **II John 1:9-11** *"⁹Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*
 - b. **Galatians 1:7-10** *"⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. ¹¹But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man."*

Are We To Break Fellowship Over Doctrine?

Any doctrine which attacks the fundamental steps of the process of redemption should not be fellowshiped. Differences of opinion concerning eschatology, etc., are not sufficient grounds for breaking fellowship.

- We must maintain unity of Spirit until we come to the unity of the faith.
 - **Ephesians 4:3,13** *“³How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ¹³Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”*
- Meats, keeping of days, and national distinction (Jew or Gentile) are not grounds for breaking fellowship
 - **Acts 15:24-29** *“²⁴Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: ²⁵It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. ²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; ²⁹That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”*
 - **Galatians 2:9** *“⁹And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”*
 - **Romans 14**
- Heretic and heresy (opinionative) are grounds for disfellowshipping.
 - **Titus 3:10** *“¹⁰A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;”*
 - **Romans 16:17** *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”*
 - **I Corinthians 11:19** *“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”*

What Are Other Grounds For Breaking Fellowship?

Disorderly conduct

- **Matthew 18:15-17** *“¹⁵Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”*

- I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- I John 2:10-11 ¹⁰"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. ¹¹But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."
- II Thessalonians 3:6 ⁶"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

- A. **Covetous** – inordinately desirous, greedy.
- B. **Idolater** – inordinately fond of a person or thing.
- C. **Railer** – abusive language, scornful.
- D. **Drunkard** – one who habitually drinks.
- E. **Extortioner** – to obtain from a person by oppression or abuse of authority.
- F. **Fornicator** – illicit sexual relationships.

Do not eat with them...
Do not keep company with them...
Love rules our Liberty!

