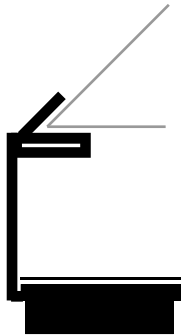




Fellowship with God's People

Introduction: Sometimes Christians get the idea that they are part of a “club” and that as long as their name appears on the roll they are still a member of the congregation and have fellowship with the Lord and His people. This erroneous view is borne out of a sectarian or denominational view of the church and does not accurately reflect the idea of “fellowship” as the word is used in the New Testament. In this lesson we will discuss the true meaning of this word

“fellowship” and how we have fellowship with one another in the work at this place. We will notice there is no sense in which we are in fellowship with the Lord or His people unless we are actively participating in the work. In fact, “participation” is simply a synonym for the word “fellowship”. (Discuss I Jn. 1 as it relates to “triangular” fellowship. Can I determine this?) Can I always know when someone HAS fellowship with God and when they don't?



FINALLY, some Questions to ponder as you consider attending all the services:

- 1) Where did Jesus expect to find His disciples on the first day of the week? John 20.19
- 2) Who missed out? John 20.24
- 3) Read Heb. 10.25. What does this verse tell us to do and why?
- 4) Who set examples of attending services? Luke 4.16; Acts 13.13-14
- 5) What are two good reasons for going to services? Psalms 84.4; Micah 4.2
- 6) With whom does God want us to have fellowship? Malachi 3.16; I Jn. 1.3; I Cor. 1.9; Rev. 3.20
- 7) Note some benefits of fellowship with God's people: Ecc. 4.9-10; Gal. 6.2; Prov. 27.17; Matt. 18.19-20
- 8) List directives concerning how we should relate to one another: I Cor. 1.10; Phil. 1.27, 2.3-4; I Pet. 3.8
- 9) How is this unity possible? Rom. 12.5; Eph. 4.13

FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2.44 “in common”

Jude 3 “common salvation”

koinonia—communion, fellowship, sharing in common (from *koinos*, common), is translated “communion” in I Cor. 10.16...it is most frequently translated “fellowship.” (WE Vine Expository Dictionary)

NOTE: I suggest that, though there may be a limited sense in which we exist in a “state” of fellowship with all brethren, this word is primarily reserved for things we DO and not things we HAVE in common. DDH

CONTEXTUAL EXAMPLES:

I Corinthians 10.20

fellowship with the devil equals sacrificing to devils.

II Corinthians 6.14

fellowship with unrighteousness equals being yoked to unbelievers.

Ephesians 5.11-12

fellowship with works of darkness equals things done in secret.

Philippians 2.1-3

fellowship of Spirit equals being like-minded/esteeming (doing).

I John 1.6-7

no fellowship with God equals walking (abiding) in darkness,
fellowship with one another equals walking (abiding) in the light,
fellowship with one another equals fellowship with God.

CONCLUSION: you are having fellowship with someone because you are, fundamentally, DOING something with them.

QUESTION: How could one possibly think he has fellowship with this class and stay home, or fellowship with God and not abide in Him?

What can you learn from these passages about the importance of constant fellowship with one another and what do these say about the importance of taking advantage of opportunities to study and worship God together? Should you make a change and stronger commitment?
