

# Fellowship With God

Introduction:

- A. Text: 1 John 1:1-2:2 – In today’s lesson we will discuss the true basis of fellowship with God.

## I. What Is Meant By “Fellowship” In This Passage?

- A. Vine says the Greek word means, “**Communion**, fellowship, **sharing in common**.” (page 420).
- B. Thayer defines the word, “fellowship, association, community, communion, **joint participation, intercourse**...2. intercourse, fellowship, **intimacy**” (as its intended use here – page 852).
- C. A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament says, “fellowship, **a close mutual relationship**...” (page 101).
- D. It thus refers to the close relationship and intimacy that Christians have with the Father.
  - 1. This fellowship is *not* a common activity, but a common relationship with the Father.

## II. Notice The Circle Of This Fellowship.

- A. **With God and Christ.**
  - 1. vs.3 & 6 – This fellowship or intimate relationship is to be with God the Father and Son.
- B. **With the Apostles.**
  - 1. vs.3 – We have fellowship with the Father & Son by having fellowship with the apostles.
- C. **With one another.**
  - 1. 1 Jn.5:1– We are to love those who have been begotten as we.
- D. **You cannot enjoy one without the others.**
  - 1. **Fellowship with God and Christ comes through the message.**
    - a. vs.3 – John was declaring things to them so they could have fellowship with God & Christ.
  - 2. **This message comes through the Apostles with whom we must have fellowship.**
    - a. vs.3; 4:6; cf.Lk.10:16– To have fellowship with God we must hear the Apostles message.
  - 3. **We must also commune together.**
    - a. We can’t have fellowship with God, Christ, or the Apostles w/out fellowship with one another.
      - 1) This is easy to understand since our fellowship with God, Christ, & the Apostles requires our acceptance of the message – which teaches us to have fellowship one with another.
    - b. 2:9-11; 4:20 – If we don’t love our brethren then we are in darkness and thus our fellowship with God, Christ, and the Apostles is lost.
    - c. cf.Matt.5:23,24 – Before correcting things with God we must correct things with others.

## III. Why Do We Need This Fellowship?

- A. The need for this fellowship is seen in the fall of man.
- B. **Man in the garden of Eden** – Gen.2.
  - 1. No sin – at peace and in fellowship with God.
  - 2. Since man was at peace and in fellowship with God all his needs, physical & spiritual, were met.
- C. **Man’s fall** – Gen.3.
  - 1. Eve was tempted by Satan and transgressed God’s commandment.
  - 2. This transgression of God’s law constituted sin – 1 Jn.3:4.
  - 3. As a result of this action spiritual death took place – cf.Rom.5:12; Ezek.18:20.
    - a. Death is a separation (James 2:26) the very opposite of fellowship – Isaiah 59:1,2.
  - 4. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were driven out of the Garden from the presence of God and lost the communion, communication, association, intimacy and fellowship of God.
- D. Man thus needs removal of his sins to be able to associate with Him again.
- E. Man needs fellowship with God, Christ, the Apostles, and the brethren because all sin and fall short of God’s glory – Rom.3:23.

## IV. Where And How Is This Fellowship Attained?

- A. **It is “in the light”** (vs.5-7).
1. The only place we can have fellowship, communion, intimacy with God is in the light.
  2. There is no fellowship with Him at all outside of the light (vs.6).
- B. **Light and Darkness identify two different spiritual realms.**
1. Spiritual light is God’s realm, darkness Satan’s realm – cf.Acts 26:18.
  2. Every one has been in darkness because of sin – Rom.3:23; cf.Eph.5:8; Col.1:12,13.
  3. There can be no fellowship between light and darkness – vs.6; 2 Cor.6:14; Eph.5:7-12.
- C. **How do we attain to the Light?**
1. First consider man on his own can never attain unto the light and thus fellowship with God.
  2. This fellowship with God IS possible today because Christ is our propitiation (cf.2:2).
  3. Now that it is possible to attain fellowship with God, what must we do to enter in?
    - a. **The Alien Sinner must heed the call.**
      - 1) 1 Pet.2:9 – Peter said they had been called out of darkness into light.
      - 2) 2 Thess.2:14 – Paul said, “*he called you through our gospel...*”
      - 3) Mk.16:15,16 – We must believe and obey it.
      - 4) Acts 2:38 – Peter told them on Pentecost to repent and be baptized.
    - b. **The Erring Child of God must repent, confess, and ask for forgiveness.**
      - 1) The one in fellowship with God has the blood of Jesus cleansing all sins – vs.7.
      - 2) This cleansing is conditional upon our confessing our sins unto God – vs.9.
        - a) The word confess means, “to speak the same thing” (Vine, page 216).
        - b) We must say the same thing about our actions as God says about them – i.e. we must confess the action was sin and that we were involved with that action.
        - c) NOTE: If we DON’T go to God and confess our sins, then we call God a liar!!! (vs.10)
      - 3) Acts 8:22 – Peter told Simon to repent of his sin and pray the Lord for forgiveness.
      - 4) Thus the erring must repent, confess, and pray to again be in fellowship with God.

## V. The Privileges Of Having This Fellowship.

- A. **An advocate with the Father.**
1. cf.2:1 – Those that are walking in the light have Jesus Christ as an advocate.
  2. Heb.7:25 – Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us.
  3. Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, will plead our case to God for us.
    - a. This will only be done when we have met the conditions for pardon (cf.1:9).
- B. **We have the avenue of prayer.**
1. cf.1:9; 5:14 – If we are in fellowship with God, we can boldly approach Him in prayer.
  2. The avenue of prayer is NOT open to those who “*walk in darkness*”.
- C. **We have forgiveness.**
1. cf.1:7,9 – We have the privilege of having our sins cleansed by the blood of Christ.
- D. **We are blessed with continual cleansing.**
1. cf.1:7 – Those in the light have the blood of Christ cleansing them of their sins.
    - a. This is NOT unconditional cleansing.
      - 1) We must repent of our sins and confess them unto God to be cleansed.
  2. Knowing we can receive forgiveness when we repent and confess, we can boldly approach the throne of God (cf.Heb.4:16) in the assurance Jesus will plead our case before God for us.

### Conclusion:

- A. If you are not in fellowship with God and would like to enter the marvelous light today, then meet the conditions for pardon, as we have discussed this morning, while we stand and sing.