

Fellowship of Saints

- Fellowship with Deity
- Fellowship with Other Christians
- That In Which We Have Fellowship

Good morning!

The lesson is entitled “**Fellowship with Saints**”.

Which is a **Close precious RELATIONSHIP**, enjoyed by saints, or christians.

The Bible says,

- “that the Gentiles should be **FELLOW-heirs**, and of the **SAME** body, and **PARTAKERS** of His promise **IN** Christ **BY** the gospel.” ([Eph.3:6](#))

Generically, FELLOWSHIP means “Joint participation”.

Biblically, FELLOWSHIP MEANS, “partnership OR Joint Participation, in **SPIRITUAL** endeavors”

Christians Have,

I. Fellowship with Deity

We have fellowship,

A. With THE FATHER

[1Jn.1:3](#) reads,

- “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.” ([1Jn.1:3](#))
- “If we say that we have **FELLOWSHIP** with Him, and walk in 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 Christ His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” ([1Jn.1:6-7](#))

Christians have Fellowship,

B. With THE ANOINTED ONE

- “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the **FELLOWSHIP** of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([1Cor.1:9](#))
- “that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,” ([Eph.3:17](#))

And Christians have Fellowship,

C. With THE HOLY SPIRIT

- “But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead **DWELL** IN you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **QUICKEN** your mortal bodies by His Spirit that **DWELLETH IN** you.” ([Rom.8:11](#))
- “Hereby know we, that we **dwell** in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us **of His Spirit.**” ([1Jn.4:13](#))
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen. ...” ([2Cor.13:14](#))

D. This is our basic, and primary FELLOWSHIP with Deity Above Which some refer to as, "Vertical" Fellowship.

Notice also, that Christians have,

II. Fellowship with Other Christians

When we have fellowship with Deity, we necessarily have,

A. Fellowship with those of a like precious faith,

Which some refer to as “Horizontal” FELLOWSHIP,
contrasted with the “Vertical” FELLOWSHIP, with God above.

Our fellowship with other Christians is,

B. The Family of God

Notice these few passages. Paul said,

- “if I tarry long, that thou mayest **KNOW** **HOW** thou oughtest to **BEHAVE** thyself **IN** the **HOUSE** of God, which is the **CHURCH** of the **LIVING** God, the **PILLAR** and **GROUND** of the **TRUTH**.” ([1Tim.3:15](#))
- “Now therefore ye are **NO MORE** strangers and foreigners, but **FELLOW** citizens **WITH** the saints, and **OF** the **HOUSEHOLD** of God,” ([Eph.2:19](#))

Therefore, Faithful Christians are **ALL Brethren**

[Acts 11:29](#) reads,

- “the **DISCIPLES**, every man according to his **ABILITY**, **DETERMINED** to send relief unto the **BRETHREN** which dwelt in Judæa:” ([Acts 11:29](#))
- “Peace be to the **BRETHREN**, and love **WITH** faith, **FROM** God the Father **AND** the Lord Jesus Christ.” ([Eph.6:23](#))

Christians are Partners in JOINT <u>privileges</u> , JOINT <u>responsibilities</u> , and JOINT <u>duties</u> of this holy FAMILY
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[Heb.3:6](#) reads,

- “Christ as a Son **OVER** His own **HOUSE**; whose house **ARE** we, **IF** we hold **FAST** the confidence, and the rejoicing of the **HOPE** **FIRM** unto the **END**.” ([Heb.3:6](#))
- “Wherefore, **holy** **BRETHREN**, partakers of the **HEAVENLY** calling, **CONSIDER** the Apostle and High Priest of our **PROFESSION**, Christ Jesus;” ([Heb.3:1](#))

Paul said,

- “...These only are my **FELLOW** workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a **COMFORT** unto me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a **SERVANT** of Christ, saluteth you, always **LABOURING** ferently, **FOR** you **IN** prayers, that ye may stand **PERFECT** and **COMPLETE**, in **ALL** the **WILL** of God.” ([Col.4:11-12](#))

C. The only God-ordained Partnership, IS the Spiritual Body of Christ, the Church

We should NOT "float" around from congregation, to congregation.

We should identify with a local work of the Lord, and be Dependable

...TOGETHERNESS, in Divine Arrangement.

Notice with me, [1Cor.12:12-27](#). If you'd like to follow along, We'll be reading from [1Cor.12:12-27](#),

- "For **AS** the **BODY** is **ONE**, and hath **MANY** members, and **ALL** the members of that **ONE** body, being **MANY**, are **ONE** body: so **ALSO** is Christ.

13 For by **ONE** Spirit, are we **ALL** baptized into **ONE** body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been **ALL** made to drink into **ONE** Spirit.

14 For the **BODY** is **NOT** one member, but **MANY**.

15 **IF** the **FOOT** shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; **is it therefore NOT of the body?**

16 And **IF** the **EAR** shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; **is it therefore not of the body?**

17 **IF** the **WHOLE** body were an eye, **WHERE** were the hearing?

IF the **WHOLE** were hearing, **WHERE** were the smelling?

18 But now hath **God** **SET** the **MEMBERS**, every one of them **IN** the body, as it hath **PLEASED** Him.

19 And **IF** they were all one member, **WHERE** were the body?

20 But **NOW** are they **MANY** members, yet but **ONE** body.

21 And the eye can**NOT** say unto the hand, **I have NO need of thee:**

NOR again the head to the feet, **I have NO need of you.**

22 **NAY**, much more those **MEMBERS** of the body, which seem to be **MORE** feeble, are **NECESSARY:**

23 and those **MEMBERS** of the body, which we **THINK** to be **LESS** honourable,

upon these we bestow more **ABUNDANT** honour;

and our **UNCOMELY** parts, have more **ABUNDANT** comeliness.

24 For our **COMELY** parts have **NO need**: but God hath **TEMPERED** the body **TOGETHER**, having **GIVEN** more **ABUNDANT** honour to that part which **LACKED**:

25 that there should be **NO** schism in the **BODY**;

but that the **MEMBERS** should have the **SAME CARE** one for another.

26 And whether **ONE MEMBER** suffer, **ALL** the members **SUFFER** with it;

or **ONE MEMBER** be honoured, **ALL** the members **REJOICE** with it.

27 Now ye are the **BODY OF CHRIST**, and **MEMBERS** in particular." ([1Cor.12:12-27](#))

We therefore should **DELIBERATELY** share and participate in Scriptural or **SPIRITUAL** things, that belongeth unto God.

D. So, have FELLOWSHIP in WHAT we ARE, and in WHAT we DO.

PARTNERSHIP is a common effort in Scriptural things.

To be in **FELLOWSHIP**, one must **ACT** in the activities.

When a local church arranges scriptural activities, EVERY FELLOW (PART-NER) has equal obligation to participate to the extent of his/her ability -- PARTICIPATION is NOT OPTIONAL.

E. For FULL Joy, We Should Bring our ALL into Effort

- "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." ([1Cor.6:20](#))

Consider some,

III. Spiritual Activities Which We Have Fellowship

A. When We Speak of FELLOWSHIP, We Mean What the Word includes.

B. Secular activities are NOT called FELLOWSHIP, from a Biblical Perspective

(secular activities within the church, perverts its function, and misappropriates its resources).

Our worship is spiritual and **NOT** physical. The Bible says,

- “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. ²⁴ **God IS a Spirit**: and they that **WORSHIP** Him **MUST WORSHIP** Him, **IN spirit and IN truth.**” ([Jn.4:23-24](#))

The Bible informs us, that some walked no more with Jesus because they sought Him for physical food and **NOT** spiritual food.

- Jesus said “Ye seek me, **NOT** because ye saw the miracles, **BUT** because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. ²⁷ Labour **NOT** for the meat which perisheth, **BUT** for that (spiritual) meat which **ENDURETH** unto everlasting LIFE, which the Son of man shall **GIVE** unto you: for Him hath God the Father **SEALED.**” ([Jn.6:26-27](#))

- Sadly, “⁶⁶ From that time **MANY** of his disciples **WENT BACK**, and walked NO MORE with Him.” ([Jn.6:66](#))

Distinguishment between spiritual worship and physical meals were clarified as being separate, In [Acts 2:46](#).

- “And they, continuing daily with **ONE accord IN** the **TEMPLE** (which was **SPIRITUAL** worship), and breaking bread from **HOUSE to HOUSE**, did eat their meat (which was a **PHYSICAL** meal) with gladness and singleness of heart,”

AND this harmonizes with [1Cor.11:22](#), where after the Lord’s Supper was perverted, Paul said,

- “What? have ye Not **HOUSES** to eat and to drink IN?”
- **We need to LEARN**, that “the kingdom (or church) of God, is **NOT** meat and drink; **BUT** righteousness, and peace, and joy IN the Holy Spirit.” ([Rom.14:17](#))

There is no authority in scripture for the church to build a kitchen or gymnasium, because it has nothing to do with spiritual worship or Biblical Fellowship.

Christians have a,

C. PARTNERSHIP in what we are Authorized to do JOINTLY in the Cause of Christ

Christians in the 1st century,

- “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and **FELLOWSHIP**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” ([Acts 2:42](#))

Christians had,

1. FELLOWSHIP IN Teaching the Gospel

- “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.” ([Gal.2:9](#))
- “Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.” ([Gal.6:6](#))
- “for your **FELLOWSHIP in the gospel**, from the first day until now;” ([Phil.1:5](#))

When a meeting of the gospel (revival) is planned and conducted to reach the lost, and edify the church, Those that do not attend every time possible, and use influence for right, do **NOT** have **FELLOWSHIP** in that effort.

Common christians, were united on a common ground, for a common purpose.

- “the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” ([2Tim.2:2](#))

• “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.
¹⁵ So, **AS** much as **IN** me **IS**, I am **READY** to preach the gospel, to you that are at Rome also.” ([Rom.1:14-15](#))

- “And I intreat thee also, True **YOKE-FELLOW**, help those women which **LABOURED** with me **IN** the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my **FELLOW-LABOURERS**, whose names are **IN** the book of life.” ([Phil.4:3](#))

1ST Century christians had,

2. FELLOWSHIP IN Edifying the body

- “...Let all things be done unto edifying.” ([1Cor.14:26b](#))
- “from whom the **whole body** fitly joined **together** and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh **increase of the body** unto the **edifying of itself** in love.” ([Eph.4:16](#))

1ST Century christians had,

3. FELLOWSHIP IN Relieving Needy Saints

- “distributing to the **NECESSITY** of **SAINTS**; given to hospitality.” ([Rom.12:13](#))

Some of that **FELLOWSHIP**, is **INDIVIDUAL DUTY**, and ultimately a joy

- “Now there was at Joppa a certain **DISCIPLE** named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called **Dorcas**: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.” ([Acts 9:36](#))

• “Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which **Dorcas** made, while she was with them.” ([Acts 9:39](#))

In Relieving Needy Saints, some of that **FELLOWSHIP**, was a **GROUP EFFORT**.

- “in those days, when the number of the **disciples** was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their **WIDOWS** were **NEGLECTED** in the daily ministrations.
² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should **LEAVE** the **WORD** of God, and serve tables.
³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you, seven men of **HONEST** report, **FULL** of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may **APPOINT** over this business.” ([Acts 6:1-3](#))
- “For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **CONTRIBUTION** for the **poor SAINTS** which are at Jerusalem.” ([Rom.15:26](#))

Christians had,

4. FELLOWSHIP IN Worship

- “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” ([Acts 2:42](#))
- “I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.” ([Heb.2:12](#))

Worship is Part of the FELLOWSHIP. This auditorium is our FELLOWSHIP HALL. Biblical Fellowship has nothing to do with Food or Games.

Christians had,

5. FELLOWSHIP IN Financing all of the above

- “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” ([1Cor.16:2](#))
- “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” ([2Cor.9:7](#))

Christians had,

6. FELLOWSHIP IN Maintaining Purity

- “teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” ([Titus 2:12](#))
- “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” ([1Thess.4:7](#))

Christians had,

7. FELLOWSHIP IN Preserving Unity

- “And all that believed were TOGETHER, ...” ([Acts 2:44a](#))
- “And the multitude of them that believed, were of ONE heart and of ONE soul: ...” ([Acts 4:32a](#))

Christians had,

8. FELLOWSHIP IN Encouraging One Another –

- “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one MEMBERS one of another.” ([Rom.12:4-5](#))
- “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” ([Heb.10:24](#))

...We THINK alike

The Bible says,

- “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the SAME thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly JOINED TOGETHER in the SAME mind and in the SAME judgment.” ([1Cor.1:10](#))

...We Know each other's JOYS

The Bible says,

- “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, ...” ([Rom.12:15a](#))
- “And whether... one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” ([1Cor.12:26b](#))

...And We Know each other's **SORROWS**

- "...weep with them that weep." ([Rom.12:15b](#))
- "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;" ([1Cor.12:26a](#))

Rejoice together in the sweet **HOPE**, which is cher-ished by all the redeemed

- "that being justified by His grace,
we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." ([Titus 3:7](#))
- "looking for that blessed hope,
and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" ([Titus 2:13](#))

IN-CONCLUSION:

Value this Spiritual **FELLOWSHIP** so highly, that we seek it diligently;
And forfeit it for **NOTHING**, with what this world has to offer.

Do you enjoy this unspeakable privilege?

- "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." ([1Jn.5:12](#))

Be a partner in Heavenly **FELLOWSHIP**, through...

- **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [2Pet.3:9](#); [1Jn.1:9](#); [Jn.8:11](#)),
- **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- Being **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-5](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
- And Remain **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#); [Matt.24:13](#)).
- "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying,
IF any man **THIRST**, let him **COME** unto Me, and (spiritually) **DRINK**." ([Jn.7:37](#))

May God help us to come to Him, while an opportunity still exist!
As Together, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw

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