

FELLOWSHIP I

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

Fellowship: It means spiritual communion, joint partnership, joint sharing and mutual partaking. When people are coming together it means there is something between them that bind them together. For example if we notice people in the world we will find them grouping together in accord to their professions. Like we find engineers together in a group, teachers coming together in a group, nurses they come under another group and so on. In the world you find people coming together with a certain common interest or benefit. But in the context of the church we can find the people coming together of different nationalities, backgrounds, languages, and also you find people of different socio-economic status and of different professions and businesses. So what is the common thing between us? And what are the bonds that link us together, and how we as Christians can have fellowship together?

1- We are children of the same God: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.” (John 1:12-13) As the Lord had given us birth by His Holy Spirit and adopted us to be His children we need to obey His commands and live according to His Word. We need to live as children of light, ***“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)” (Ephesians 5:8-9)*** If a Christian will do and practice evil we cannot consider him among the children of God and we cannot have a Christian fellowship with him. As Jesus said to some of them; you are not the children of God but of the devil, ***“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8: 44)***

2- We have been bought with the same prize: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) We have fellowship together because Jesus had purchased us and had paid the prize for our sins; Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. For such a prize that Jesus paid for our sins on the cross He wants us to honour God in our lives and with our bodies. In our fellowship with fellow Christians we observe that there should not be any hint of sexual immorality, ***“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” (1 Corinthians 6:16)*** We should also wear decent clothes and not allow our body parts to be exposed.

3- We are the members of one body: “For we are members of his body.” (Ephesians 5:30) Our Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church, which is His body. ***“And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.” (Colossians 1:18)*** We have fellowship together because we are members of the body of Christ. Therefore our fellowship should strengthen and edify the church.

4- We are guided by the same Holy Spirit: “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13) Our fellowship is ordained and overseered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the truth that will direct us to do the things that God wants us to do. As believers we should be guided by the Holy Spirit, ***“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)*** To the contrary to the Holy Spirit that bring us together as children of God, there are evil spirits of the power of darkness, demons and Satan, that lead us astray. We need to be careful about them; ***“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” (1 Timothy 4:1-2)*** Our fellowship should not be interrupted or interfered by evil spirits. This will happen if there is sin in the body of Christ; in this way the evil spirits will find foot holds to interfere. Our fellowship is a fellowship of holiness where God lives in the mid of His holy people.

5- We are living by the same faith: “We live by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7) We are people who ought to trust God and we show that true faith in Him by obeying His Word. We live our lives depending on God and we don't be afraid or discouraged on looking on events around us. We depend on God who promised us to be with us always to the very end of the age.

6- We are serving the same Master, the Lord Jesus Christ: “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one Master and you are all brothers.” (Mathew 23:8) In Christ we are Brothers and sisters, and the bond of fellowship between us is that we are serving one Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. But serving the Lord should be in accord to the Word of God and the rules of Christ, ***“Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.” (2 Timothy 2:5)***

7- We are heir of the same inheritance: “Now if we are children, then we are heirs -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.” (Romans 8:17) We who are in Christ Jesus we have an inheritance in heaven as the Word of God would tell us, ***“And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade -- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:4-5)*** This will strengthen the fellowship between us as God's children.

My Dear and Beloved: “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7) Our bond and fellowship with one another depend on our right relationship with Him that based on faith and obedience to our Lord and His Word as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and Your teaching to me. Lord help me to keep my right relationship with you and to remain in your Word, and to have fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.