

Fellowship Part 2

“5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 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.” (1 John 1:5-7 KJV)

Faith and believe in God transform our lives from living in darkness to a living in the light. Living in darkness is living under the effect and the influence of Satan and his agents, the demons, and those who obey him and follow his evil and crooked way of life. Communion and fellowship with God dictates on us to live a life pleasant to God by following the Lord Jesus Christ and following His Word and commands to us. **What meant with “and in him is no darkness at all”, it means that we should not have sin ruling in our lives so we will have fellowship with Him. Because sin will hinder us from having the right fellowship with Jesus and will make us walk in darkness and will hinder us from having the true fellowship with one another.**

The Lord Jesus Christ came from Heaven, God the Father sent Him to save our lives. **“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)** The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, He suffered a cruel death to save us. He was buried but rose from death on the third day to give us eternal life; to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. The Lord Jesus declared, **“12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12 KJV)** * To live in the light is to follow the Word of Jesus and His instructions in our lives and in our relationships with other people. His Word and teaching determine the type of relationships that we have with other people around us. * God is love and that love transforms us to love and care to one another inside the body of Christ and to carry that love to others who live in darkness. * But to bring the good news of Jesus to others does not mean to share the same way of life that they are living and to have fellowship with them. Our fellowship should be with those who live in the light, and our fellowship with one another should be a fellowship of light and nothing of the darkness should be of it.

A true Christians should refrain from following and fellowships with such kind of relationships.

1. Not to eat food sacrifice to idols and should not be there in their feasts: “18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? 20 But 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. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. 22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:18-22 KJV) Food that

unbelievers cook and prepare for their religious celebrations is food offered to demons and to partake it is to participate with demons and with such action God is not pleased.

2. Not to intermingle and have fellowship with sinners, mockers, and wicked people: “1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalm 1:1 KJV) To spend time and fellowship with such kinds of people will corrupt us as the Word of God tells us, **“33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.” (1 Corinthians 15:33-34 KJV)** We have to go and preach the gospel to them. They should not be the one who influence us, but we should influence them and bring them to Christ.

3. Not to be yoked and be married to a non-believer: “14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16 KJV) We who believe in Christ Jesus become the temple of God and the Holy Spirit of God would live in us. **“16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV)** Therefore we have obligation to God not to be yoked and get married with non-believers, they are the temple of Satan, and we should not be yoked with them. But if you had already married to a non-believer and after your marriage you got saved then you ought to continue your life with him or her, praying to God that he or she will know Jesus and receive Him as Savior and Lord and got saved.

4. “11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Ephesians 5:11 KJV) Our fellowship as Christians between one another should be pure from the evil deeds of darkness. **“3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” (Ephesians 5:3-7 KJV)** Our fellowship should be clean from Joking, foolish talk, obscenity, drinking, gambling, impurity, greediness, and immoral hidden relationships. We have nothing to do with such kinds of people.

5. “10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” (2 John 1:10-11 KJV) Also watch who is coming to your house? Who are the people who come to visit you? Are they the true people of God or some other kind of evil people? The Lord Jesus said, **“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:”** Your house should only be open to those who carry and follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. Also another thing in the house is your TV, what you are watching in it?

Worldly movies and worldly music! Christians should not watch that. Jesus love to stay with you, so keep your life, fellowship and your house clean.

“1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” (Ephesians 5:1-7 KJV) God’s grace that brings salvation had appeared to all men that teach us to say no to ungodliness and worldly desires. To live a good quality with the Lord Jesus Christ is to live in holiness and to keep our fellowship with the saints, the holy people of God. Such mandate calls us to clean our fellowship from sexual immorality, impurity, corruption and other kinds of sins so that we would not suffer the consequences of these sins.

* There are times we have to keep the fellowship in order to impart the love of Jesus to the new believers and in order to help them in their growth and to be build up in the knowledge of Christ and His Word. * But there are times where the fellowship has to be broken because keeping fellowship with certain people who call themselves brothers but they keep on sinning and living in sin will bring on us the same punishment and the wrath that the Lord will bring on them. The Bible tells us, ***“20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20 KJV)*** If we walk with those who fear the Lord we will grow with them as wise. But if we keep company with the fool who live in sin we will suffer the same of what they will suffer of their sins. Therefore, we will study now which time the fellowship should be discontinued.

I. “11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” (1 Corinthians 5:11 KJV) The Word of God teaches us here not to associate with anyone who call or consider himself a Christian brother or sister and he or she still live in darkness. The following categories of those who call themselves believers should stay outside the church until they repent, turn from their sins and follow Christ:-

A. Fornicator or having sexually immorality: We cannot keep inside the church those who still doing sex outside the marriage life, or have sexual perversion and homosexuality. Boyfriend and girlfriend, live-in relationship, divorce and remarriage, a single parents marrying non the father nor the mother of her or his child or children, all are considered sexual immorality.

B. Covetous or greedy: Church fellowship is not a place of business or getting customers. We don’t encourage in our fellowship such kinds of attitude, developing businesses

inside the church or serving God in order to receive money. Our people should love God more than money. Greediness is like idol worship, for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

C. An idolater: We cannot keep our fellowship with those who come with us but they keep idols with them and continue to adorn and worship them beside Jesus.

D. A railer or slanderer: A person who continually tells lies and moves from person to person to gossip and tell fabricated stories to slander others, make a slur for them or deceive others by his stories for his own wicked purpose; then we should break the fellowship with that person.

E. A drunkard: Those who keep drinking we cannot consider them in Christ Jesus our Lord, and if they would not respond to the instruction, the fellowship with them needs to be broken.

F. An extortioner or swindler: A person who tries to cheat and plough people we cannot keep him in our church. Such kind of people are wolves among sheep, if we keep them inside the church they will harm the true believers, and will promote more the works of the devil.

II. “15 Moreover 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. 16 But 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. 17 And 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.” (Matthew 18:15-17 KJV) A person who sins against you or who had committed a sin and you are the one who discover it, then it is you who need to go to him alone and speak to him privately about what he had done wrong. If he accepts his sin and repent then you have won over your brother. But if he is not willing then bring one or two with you to witness, then if he is not willing to listen and repent then report that to the church and if he would not listen to the church then consider him as non-believers.

III. “14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.” (2 Thessalonians 3:14 KJV) That was part of the letter of Apostle Paul to the church in Thessalonica. He gave them instructions about different subjects like not to be idle, live in holiness, the second coming of Christ, and other teachings of the Lord Jesus. Paul instructed the church that those who refuse to obey those instructions; they should not associate with them. What we can say for us as a church today is this: If someone is not willing to obey and follow the teaching of the church that comes from the Bible he should not be part of our fellowship.

My Dear and Beloved: The Word of God tells us the following, ***“12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.” (1 Corinthians 5:12-13 KJV)*** We need to keep our fellowship clean, without sin and without blemish. The church is the household of God and should be kept vibrant, and this is your responsibility to keep the fellowship among us cleansed from sins.

** The time had come to you now to cleanse yourself from any kind of sin and live in holiness in order to do your responsibility well in keep a holy fellowship with our brethren in the church. * The time also had come to you to stand and to stand firm to deal with those who sin and who live in sin and are still inside the fellowship and they are not willing to be corrected. Let us pray ...*

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that brings light into my life. Lord thank you for showing me with whom I need to continue my fellowship and what are the sins that we need to keep our fellowship cleansed from. Lord thank you for all the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received from you.*

Confess now all your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your lust, immoralities, laziness, drinking alcohol, smoking, telling lies, cheating, slandering, idol worship, extortion, swindling, your envy and jealousy, your selfishness and your lack of love. Repent of your yoke the non believers, having many friends, and wasting your times on the Media, News and games, watching TV, and you are away from the church fellowship. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayer. Confess and renounce your compromises and your non willingness to stand firm and deal with those who sin and those live in sin. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I repent of my sins being having friendship with many non-believers. Lord I commit myself from this day on to cut my friendship and fellowship with the following people_____, and I will stop watching and listening to worldly things and movies. Lord I commit myself not to associate with people who call themselves brothers but they are evil doers. Lord I commit myself to keep our church fellowship clean and healthy and to expel the wicked who are among us so that your name would be glorified among the nations, thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to follow you and walk in your ways in pertain to have fellowship with the members of your family the church, and to stand firm and cut their fellowship with evil doers and to expel the wicked from among your church. Lord uphold them with your grace, protect them from the evil one, provide for them and sustain them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord, bless us as a church and bless our fellowship and strengthen the bonds between us according to your Word and your will in our lives. Lord we are willing to stand firm and deal with those who are in sin and those who are not willing to repent and amend their ways. Lord give us wisdom how to deal with them; approaching them and facing them with the truth and implementing your Word on those who are reluctant to repent and be changed. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we

pray for more people to be water baptised and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come. Lord fulfil the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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