

# Fellowship

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## Introduction

1. 1 John 1:3-10
2. One of the key words of 1 John is fellowship (Thompson chain reference). It appears four times. Vs 3 2x vs 6; vs 7
3. He does not define “fellowship”
  - a. he expects them to know what it is. He does not discuss degrees of fellowship
  - b. The apostles John as well as Luke expects them to know what this word or concept means. Acts 2:42, 44
  - c. Paul says to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” Ephesians 5:11. Do not participate with them, is understood.
4. As we read 1 John we find that fellowship is to be desired. Vs 3
5. We also see that fellowship is attainable Vs 3
6. Let us notice his teaching and thus God teaching on fellowship

## II Discussion

1. The basis of fellowship Vs 3
  - a. How do we have fellowship
    - i. Based on teaching “declared” in verse 3.
    - ii. Same as apostles teaching Acts 2:42
    - iii. First teaching then fellowship
    - iv. So if not teaching what the apostles taught then no fellowship with them or the Godhead
    - v. It is not just any kind of teaching, what they had seen, and heard.
    - vi. This would be the facts of the Gospel, not all were teaching this.
    - vii. What were they to believe about Christ?
      1. Could they practice just anything they wanted?
      2. Could they believe anything they wanted?
      3. If they did not believe and teach the same thing the apostles taught how could they have fellowship with the apostles? 1 John 1:1
      4. The apostle taught Christ was eternal 1:1
      5. The apostle taught Christ was actual, heard, saw and handled. 1:1
      6. Thomas John 20:27 notice verse 29
  - b. To have fellowship one believes and teaches the same thing as the apostles.
  - c. Could one then have fellowship with a Muslim? He does not teach or believe the same thing the apostles believed and taught.
2. The boundary of fellowship
  - a. Some may **claim** to have fellowship but in reality they do not. 1 John 1:6-7

- i. One does not read 1 John and get the idea there is no limits of fellowship.
      - ii. Believer and unbeliever are different so are light and darkness
      - iii. To claim to have fellowship and not believe and teach the same as the apostles is to lie!
      - iv. Therefore fellowship has its limits or else walking in darkness means nothing.
    - b. There are the conditions of fellowship 1:7.
      - a. Contrast noticed,
        - i. The claim of and the actual possession of fellowship
        - ii. The walking in light or darkness 3 John 4; 2 John 6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17
        - iii. Fellowship is depends on our walking according to the Word of God.
      - c. Questions
        - a. Who sets the limits of fellowship? Apostle, God and Christ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
        - b. Who would have the right to remove or change the conditions of fellowship? Nobody!
        - c. The boundary of fellowship has been set by the Lord and cannot be altered by man!
3. The barriers to fellowship Vs 6-10
- a. An attitude that sin does not matter Vs 6
    - i. Can a person live a life of sin and have fellowship with God? no
    - ii. It is equal to walking to the course of this world Ephesians 2:2
    - iii. This person does not see sin as God see sin.
    - iv. Therefore nothing in common with God and thus no fellowship with God!
  - b. Another is that sin does not exist 1:8
    - i. No difference in one who claims to have fellowship with God but walks in darkness
  - c. Another is redefining sin 1:10
    - i. Calling sin by any other name is still sin!
    - ii. When we sin and denying that it is sin makes God a liar!
    - iii. Calling evil good and good evil is the same thing
  - d. Illustrated in the elder brother of Luke 15:25-32
    - i. He was angry Vs 28 He would not go in, claimed fellowship but had none
    - ii. He claimed sinlessness Vs 29 but is this attitude not a barrier to fellowship with brother and the father?
4. The blessings of fellowship
- a. Love of the Father 1 John 3:1
    - i. As long as we have fellowship with the Father we will never have to feel unloved or unwanted.

- b. Leading Father 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:6
  - i. We know then which way to turn
- c. Lifting brethren Acts 4:23
  - i. Geese flying in a V
- d. Illustrated in the prodigal that returns home
  - i. Appreciation of the love of his father
  - ii. Accept the leadership of the father
  - iii. Thus live a pure and better life

### III Conclusion

1. Fellowship is not to be taken lightly
2. It is a thing of blessing, benefit and beauty.
3. Ps 133:1 How good and how pleasant it is
  5. Do you want to have fellowship with God, Christ and the brethren?
  6. If you have had it but lost this fellowship then why not come back into this fellowship.

Source: Expositions of "The Expositor" by Winfred Clark Vol. 2 page 461-467