

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 5

FELLOWSHIP

1. WHAT FELLOWSHIP IS

It has been said, "Fellowship is two people in the same house. It is two or more people who believe the same things and enjoy being together. They tell each other everything. They think and feel the same about many things."

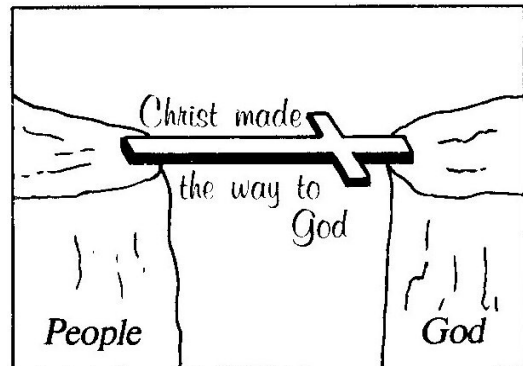
What is fellowship?

2. GETTING FELLOWSHIP

A. We receive fellowship through forgiveness.

One of the wonderful reasons for God saving us is so we can have fellowship with Him and with His Son. We have this fellowship through the Holy Spirit working in our life, 1 John 1:3; 3:24. When God first made people, He had fellowship with them.

When Adam disobeyed God, sin came in and this fellowship was broken. Even though people sinned, God still loved them. He made a way for them to be forgiven. He made a way for them to come back into fellowship with Himself. God did this by sending His Son into the world to take away the sin that stands between God and man. When we trust Christ as our Saviour we can have fellowship with God.

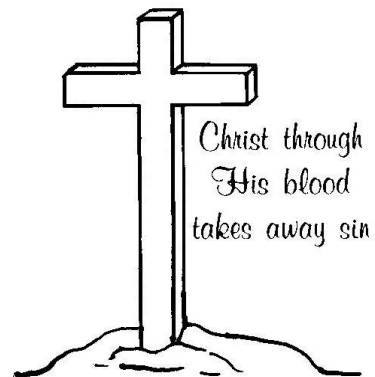


B. We receive fellowship through the blood of Jesus Christ.

God is perfect. His holiness will never change. If we want to have fellowship with God we must be holy also.

What does Amos 3:3 ask?

God has made this fellowship possible. In what way did He do it? Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 John 1:7.



Amos asks, "How can two walk together if they do not have good

fellowship?" God made this fellowship through the blood of Jesus.

C. We receive fellowship through living a holy life

What kind of life does God want us to live? Galatians 5:22,23.

Whom has God given us to help us live a Christian life? Galatians 5:22.

*Christ through
the Holy Spirit
helps a Christian
live a holy life*

God gave us the Holy Spirit. Because of this, these things can be in our life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self control.

How do we receive God's fellowship?

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3. KEEPING FELLOWSHIP

A. To keep the fellowship we must read the Bible.

What does God tell us about His Word? Psalm 119:11.

How do the Holy Scriptures help us? 2 Timothy 3:15

From these verses we can see that the Word of God keeps us away from sin. The Word of God shows us how we can be saved from sin and have fellowship with God.



B. To keep the fellowship we must pray.

God had given us the wonderful opportunity to pray to Him. If we listen to Him while we are praying, He can tell us what He wants us to do. It is in prayer and meditation that we can have the closest fellowship with God, Psalm 104:34.

Write two ways in which we can keep the fellowship.

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- By obeying God.
- By yielding to God.

C. To keep the fellowship we must obey.

The only way we can keep this fellowship with God is by obeying Him. When He tells us to do something, we are to do it. God knows that we are too weak by ourselves to do what He wants us to do.

Who works in us to will and to do what is good? Philippians 2:13

D. To keep the fellowship we must yield to God.

God wants us to give Him our whole life so that He can work through us. Often we do not let God have our whole life.

What are we to offer to God? Romans 12:1,2

Write four ways in which we can keep the fellowship.

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4. BREAKING FELLOWSHIP

A. How fellowship is broken

We have just seen that we have fellowship by obeying what God asks us to do. When we refuse to obey God, fellowship is broken. Even the smallest sin will break our fellowship with God.

What separates us from God? Isaiah 59:2



When we as Christians sin, we open the door for more sin. Sin will soon make us forget God. We see this often. It has been said, "The Bible will keep us away from sin, or sin will keep us away from the Bible."

How is fellowship broken?

B. What happens when fellowship is broken.

As it is written in Hebrews 12:3-11, what might God do to us, His children, if we will not stop sinning?

God punishes us. But if we keep on sinning, what might He do next? 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

God punishes Christians if they sin. But if a Christian keeps on sinning, he may be weak, or sick, or he may even die.

Parents who really love their children punish them. This keeps them from doing things that are not good for them or may even hurt them. Children who learn to obey will be kept from heartache and sorrow later on. God works the same in our life. He wants us to have a happy life.

What happens when fellowship is broken?

C. Are we still God's children?

Some people believe that when we sin we have to be saved all over again. This is not true. We may feel like we need to be saved all over again, but we do not. We did not become a child of God by being good. We cannot stay a child of God by being good. We became a child of God by trusting that Jesus Christ paid for our sin on the cross. We stay a child of God by trusting in what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. This teaching might be hard for us to understand. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make it clear to you from God's Word.

What does Jesus do for us when we sin?

1 John 2:1,2

Hebrews 7:25

What is your relationship with Jesus Christ? John 14:20

Because Jesus Christ paid for our sins, He is in us and we are in Him. God sees Christ's righteousness. When we sin, we are like a little child who disobeys his parents. He does not want to have fellowship with his parents. He knows that he should be punished. He is still a child of his parents, but there is no fellowship.

How is fellowship broken?

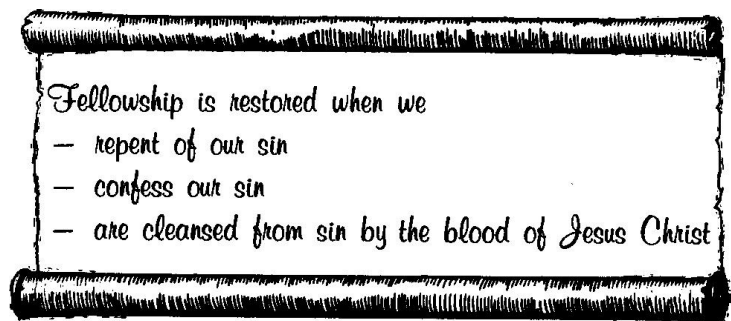
What happens when fellowship is broken?

When we sin, do we have to be saved again?

5. RESTORING FELLOWSHIP

A. To restore fellowship we must repent of our sin.

Remember that the blood of Jesus cannot help us unless we are willing to repent of our sin. We must be willing to stop doing the sinful things we liked to do. We must turn away from sin. We must turn to God. We must want to do what God wants us to do. Then we will be able to enjoy the fellowship He has for us.



Remember, Satan did not want us to be saved in the first place. He will try to break our fellowship with God if he can. God will give us the grace needed to overcome Satan every time he tries to spoil our fellowship with God.

How do we keep this fellowship? See 1 John 1:7.

B. To restore fellowship we must confess our sins

If we want to have fellowship with God, we must be willing to confess our sin to God. This is the only way we can come back into fellowship.

What does God do when we confess our sins to him? 1 John 1:9

Each sin takes us farther away from God. We can come back into fellowship with God quickly. When we are willing to see our sin and confess it to God, He is ready to forgive our sin. He will also cleanse us of our sin. As soon as the little child comes to his daddy and says, "I am sorry for disobeying," there is fellowship again.

When we have lived in sin for a while, what must we do to come back to God?

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- Be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

C. To restore fellowship we must be cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus.

How can God cleanse us from sin? 1 John 1:7

Always remember it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from sin. Many religions today do not like to talk about the blood of Christ. The shedding of blood brings death. Sin brings death. Christ died on the cross for your sin and my sin. Every sin we have done and every sin we will do must be paid for by the blood - the blood of Jesus Christ.

What was shed so that our sins could be forgiven?

When we have lived in sin for a while, what must we do to come back to God?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: 1 John 1:9.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What is fellowship?
2. How do we receive God's fellowship?

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3. Write four ways in which we can keep the fellowship.

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4. How is fellowship broken?

5. What happens when fellowship is broken?

6. When we sin, do we have to be saved again?

7. When we have lived in sin for a while, what must we do to come back to God?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. holiness - freedom from sin.
2. holy - free from sin.
3. meditation - deep thought.
4. opportunity - a good chance.
5. refuse - to say "no".
6. relationship - connection or joining with someone else or something; example - father - son.
7. restore - to give back what has been taken away.