



“True Fellowship”

1 John 1:5-7

1 John 1:5-7 – “⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Five reasons John wrote this letter...

1. So we could have fellowship (1:3)

1 John 1:3 – “what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

2. So we could have joy (1:4)

1 John 1:4 – “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”

3. So we would not sin (2:1)

1 John 2:1 – “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

4. So we aren’t deceived (2:26)

1 John 2:26 – “These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.”

5. So we would know we have a right relationship with God (5:13)

1 John 5:13 – “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

And what is fellowship (koinonia)? It is our shared life in Christ.

Relationship - is based on your relatedness to a person

Fellowship - is what you do in that relationship.

John 1:12 – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

Four times John writes, “If we say...” and “the one who says”

1 John 1:6 – “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness...

1 John 1:8 – “If we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves...”

1 John 1:10 – “If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar...”

1 John 2:4 – “The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments...”

So today...we’re going to look at three aspects of true fellowship...

1. The foundation of true fellowship (v. 5)

2. The requirements of true fellowship (v. 6)

3. The joy of true fellowship (v. 7)

1. The foundation of true fellowship (v. 5)

1 John 1:5 – “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you,”

John 16:28 – “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.”

John 12:49 – “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.”

1 John 1:5b – “...that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

John 8:12 – “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Hebrews 4:15 – “...He has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

Isaiah 9:2 – “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.”

- And so light is a picture of the power of God (Acts 26:18).
- Light is a gift of God (2 Cor. 4:6). Light is the source of all that is good (Eph .5).
- Light is the armor of God (Eph. 6)...Light is the kingdom of His own dear Son...
- ...Light is redemption...Light is forgiveness (Col. 1:12-14).
- ...Add to this God’s presence...and God’s fellowship...with us.

2. The requirements of true fellowship (v.6)

Darkness is...

- Darkness is always pictured in the Bible...typically as the power of Satan. But not always
- Sometimes it’s seen as evil deeds (Rm. 13:12) Or fruitless works (Eph. 5:8).
- Or the spiritual forces of evil like it’s described in Eph. 6:12.
- But darkness is also pictured as the place of captivity (Col. 1:12).

1 John 1:6 – “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Colossians 1:13 – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”

1 Peter 2:9 – “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, a royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

1 John 1:8 – “If we say we have fellowship with Him...”

Matthew 7:21 – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Galatians 5:17 – “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh’ for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

3. The joy of true fellowship (v.7)

1 John 1:7 – “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 4:20 – “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to ‘walk in the light’ (v.7)? ‘Walk in darkness (v.6)?
2. How does fellowship with God relate to fellowship with other believers (v.7)?
3. If someone claims to have fellowship with God but continues to live in sin, what does it mean?
4. What is the significance of confession in maintaining fellowship with God?
5. How does this passage challenge you to examine your own life and walk with God?