

What Does Fellowship Really Mean? *Part 2*

1 John 1:5-10 (NIV)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But 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.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS A MATTER OF OBEDIENCE.

v. 5 "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

John 3:19 (NASB-U)

"This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their deeds were evil."

- God is perfect and with Him and around Him no sin exists.

Psalms 18:30 (NIV)

As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless.

He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- We are not perfect; therefore, we must deal with our sinfulness.
- Even though we have a sin nature, individual sin is a matter of choice.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

2. WE CANNOT CLAIM TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND LIVE A DOUBLE LIFE.

v. 6 "If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth."

- It is possible to be a believer, but sin still has a hold on our lives.

Romans 7:18-20 (NLT)

I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. ¹⁹When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. ²⁰But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it.

- Sin does not cancel our salvation, but it does cloud our fellowship with God.
- We cannot hold on to a disobedient lifestyle and cultivate our fellowship with God.

1 John 2:4 (NLT)

If someone says, "I belong to God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth.

3. OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AFFECTS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

v. 7 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."

- When we are in fellowship with God, it opens the door for fellowship with other believers.
- When we are out of fellowship with God, it hinders fellowship with other believers.
- The strongest bond of fellowship comes when we're honest with our sin, and take the steps to experience forgiveness.

v. 9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

My fellowship with God and my fellow believers is the strongest when I am honest with my failures and obedient in my relationship with God.