

“Relationship, Fellowship, and Love”
Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction

1. *“Relationship, Fellowship, and Love”*
2. Relationship is a word that keeps coming back to me. And, it has expanded to three words: Relationship, Fellowship, and Love.
3. Relationship – the state of being related or interrelated by kindred, affinity, or other reliance.
4. Fellowship – community of interest, activity, feeling, experience – oneness
5. Love - unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another
6. All three words are messages in and of themselves, and absolutely related to each other.
7. We can see relationship and fellowship as having a difference.
 - a. Relationship as being something that can’t be broken; fellowship something that can be broken.
 - b. Example – Relationship with a birth father can’t be broken while fellowship can.

I. Relationship and Fellowship

- A. In scripture, relationship and fellowship have somewhat a difference, but are hard to separate.
 1. *Katallagey* – restoration, reconciliation
 - a. Adjustment of a difference
 - b. Restoration of the favor of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the death of Christ that appeased, satisfied the wrath of Holy God.
 - c. Relationship restored – when God made us, we were made in the image of God, but the relationship was broken.
 2. *Koinonia* – fellowship, association, community, communion
 3. One source that I read states, “This is relationship. This is fellowship.”
 4. It is Relationship and Fellowship combined. It’s like when the Scripture talks about relationships, fellowship is present – can’t separate the two.
- B. Relationships – just a few...
 1. Family: marriage, parent/child, siblings
 2. Extended family
 3. Business Relationships: employer/employee, worker to worker
 4. School
 5. Friendship
 6. Fraternal Organizations
 7. Social
 8. Church: staff, leaders, members
- C. In each relationship, interaction, relating, fellowship, whether good or bad, is present.
- D. Who speaks to all these relationships in light of fellowship? The Lord and His Word – Phil. 2:1-11 (NASB, NIV)
- E. Why do we get involved in so many different relationships?
 1. Dr. Gary Collins ([Christian Counselling: A Comprehensive Guide](#)) simply states, “Human are social creatures.”
 2. God the Creator made us to be relational.
 - a. First to have relationship with Him.
 - b. Secondly to have relationship with each other as mankind.
 - c. Healthy, whole, beneficial relationships for all.

II. The Relationship and Fellowship was broken.

- A. Gen. 1 and 2 speaks of Creation – God as the Creator and man as the apex of His creation.
- B. Gen. 3 speaks of man's sin and the answer for man's sin.
- C. The rest of the Word tells of God, His Love, His Power, and His Answer for the brokenness of man – Jesus Christ.

III. Good Interpersonal Relations... (Dr. Gary Collins)

- A. Begin with Jesus Christ.
- B. Depend on Personal Traits.
 - 1. Attitudes
 - 2. Characteristics involved in disputes
- C. Involve Determination, Effort, and Skill.

IV. Relationship, Fellowship, and Love

- A. Restored Relationship with God in Christ – 2 Cor. 5:17-19.
- B. Relational Fellowship with each other through Christ – 1 John 1:5-7.
- C. Relationship and Fellowship held together by the Love of Christ
 - 1. Matthew 22:36-40
 - 2. 1 Cor. 13 – Faith, Hope, and Love – the greatest of these is love.

Conclusion

- 1. How is your relationship and fellowship with God?
- 2. How is your relationship and fellowship with the people in your life?
- 3. How is your love life? Do you find it hard to love people, or is the Love of God simply flowing through you like a gentle, refreshing spring?