**Fellowship In The Gospel**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 18th, 2018

Text: I John 1:3-4

Intro

1. The Greek root word *“koinos” (G2839)* in the N.T. can properly be defined as “sharing something with someone; an associate, partner, companion, partaker.”
	1. It denotes a partnership in work (a profession), such as Peter shared with James and John in the fishing business – Luke 5:10: “Partners” *(G2844 koinonos).*
	2. Expresses a common relationship or nature. Jesus, in order to destroy the power of Satan over mankind, shared with man “flesh and blood” that He might deliver man through His death and destroy the power of Satan over him –Heb. 2:14: “Share” *(G2841 koinoneo).*
	3. We become “partakers” (sharers) of the divine nature through the precious promises of God and the provisions of His grace – II Pet. 1:4: “Partakers” *(G2844 koinonos)*
	4. The Gentiles became “partakers” of the “rich root” (the full nature) of the olive tree when they were “grafted” in as branches and shared such fullness with the Jews – Rom. 11:17: “Partaker” *(G4791 sugkoinōnos [soong-koy-no-nos']: From G4862 (sun) and G2844 (koinonos); a co-participant: partaker).* ***Eph. 3:4-6:*** *This is the mystery of Christ!*
	5. We are enabled to enjoy “fellowship” with the Apostles and with God and Christ through the Gospel – I Jn. 1:3: “Fellowship” *(G2842 koinōnia: Partnership, lit. participation).*
	6. Through the blood of Christ and walking in His light, we have fellowship with God and with one another – I Jn. 1:6-7: “Fellowship” *(G2842 koinōnia).*
2. I John 1:1-4:
	1. John is writing as an eye-witness and proclaims “eternal life” through physical senses:
		1. Audible Perception: “What we have heard” (I Jn. 1:1, 3)
		2. Visual Perception: “What we have seen with our eyes” (I Jn. 1:1-3)
			1. Affirmed 4 times: “seen” (1:1); “looked at” (1:1); “seen” (1:2, 3)
		3. Tactile Perception: “Touched with our hands” (I Jn. 1:1; Lk. 24:39)
	2. John affirms he writes to:
		1. “Testify” (NKJ: “bear witness”) – 1:2
		2. “Proclaim to you” – 1:2-3
	3. John says he writes to proclaim that through his eye-witness testimony those who read it can have fellowship with the apostles, with God and with Christ!
3. True joy comes from fellowship in the gospel!
4. Fellowship With the Apostles
5. I Jn. 1:3: “What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us…” (Lk. 1:2; Acts 1:3; 2:32; 4:20: Gal. 1:12; II Pet. 1:16)
	1. If we are partners *(G2842 koinōnia)* with the apostles then we can have the assurances they had!
		1. II Tim. 4:6-8: Just as Paul had the assurance of a “crown of righteousness” in the future so can we! (Rev. 2:10: “Crown of Life”)
		2. I Pet. 1:3-4: Peter wrote that we have an inheritance, a reservation in Heaven!
		3. II Pet. 1:3: Peter wrote that through the knowledge of Jesus (the gospel) we may have all things that pertain to life and godliness!
		4. I Jn. 2:1-3: John affirmed that Jesus is our Advocate and propitiation for our sins!
	2. The apostles recorded the truth that they received (Jn. 16:13; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4) for future generations so that we may have the same fellowship with God and with Jesus Christ that they themselves enjoyed!
6. Through the gospel of Christ everyone who obeys can share in the same faith, peace, happiness, hope and joy that the apostles had in their fellowship with God and with Jesus!
7. Fellowship With God
8. I Jn. 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…”
	1. Through the blood of Christ and walking in His light (obedience), we have fellowship with God and with one another – I Jn. 1:6-7: “Fellowship” *(G2842 koinōnia).*
	2. Through obedience we are “called the children of God” – I Jn. 3:1-2, 22 *(Rom. 8:14-17: Adopted into the family of God)* – thus, become fellow workers with God (I Cor. 3:9)!
9. By our fellowship with God we have fellowship with one another:
	1. Acts 2:42, 46-47: Early saints are an example of “being of one mind” together!
	2. Rom. 15:26: Churches from all over shared in the contribution to the needy saints in Jerusalem (II Cor. 8:1-5).
10. By obedience to the gospel we have fellowship with God as His children!

1. Fellowship With Christ
2. I Jn. 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.”
3. I Cor. 1:9-10; Phil. 1:27; Rom. 15:5-6; Phil. 3:10: Saints are called to “fellowship” with Christ to “strive together” to be of the “same mind” (sharing in faith) and “same judgment” (partakers of the same goal), “standing firm in one spirit” (same goal of pleasing God), “with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (same doctrine), and to have fellowship in His sufferings.
4. I Cor. 11:26: Personal participation with Christ is made possible in partaking of the Lord’s Supper!
5. I Cor. 10:16-21: Paul makes a very explicit and impressive argument on this subject!
	* + 1. In the assembly of the saints *(Mt. 18:20: Even two or three in His name),* when the bread and fruit of the vine are taken in commemoration of Jesus’ death there is “sharing” (fellowship) with Christ, with His body and His blood, and therefore participation or sharing *(G2842 koinōnia – I Jn. 1:3: “Partnership”)* with Christ, personally (I Cor. 10:16).
			2. There is fellowship with Christ upon the part of Christians and therefore fellowship upon the part of Christians with each other in the body of Christ (I Cor. 10:17).
			3. In Jewish worship the altar where God’s name was recorded represented and meant the presence of God to the Jews. Those who ate of the Jewish sacrifices became “partakers” of the altar, which meant to them “participation with God” because the altar was His, His name was recorded upon it, and it represented His presence (I Cor. 10:18-19; *see Lev. 3:3-5, 11; 7:11-17).*
			4. He concludes that since this is true (union with Christ and with one another in the Lord’s Supper) so also participation in false worship unauthorized by Christ, but in harmony with the will of the Devil, meant union with Satan and those who serve him (I Cor. 10:20-21: “sharers in demons” = *G2844 koinonos – Lk. 5:10; II Pet. 1:4: “Partners”).*
			5. Paul demonstrates that it matters what and who we fellowship with!
6. By obedience to the gospel we have fellowship with Christ and with one another!

Conclusion

1. I Jn. 1:4: “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete”
	1. Complete joy is the immediate blessing of fellowship – The joy of:
		1. Forgiveness – I Jn. 2:1-2
		2. Hope – I Jn. 3:3
		3. Brotherly love – I Jn. 3:13-14, 17-18, 23
		4. Victory – I Jn. 5:4
2. III Jn. 4: John said, “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”
3. By walking in the Light (I Jn. 1:7) we have fellowship with Jesus and with one another!
4. Obedience to the gospel grants joy because we gain fellowship with the apostles, God, and Jesus!
5. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins!
6. If a Christian in sin, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late! Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!