



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

TITLE: Biblical Life Words—Living By God’s Word: FELLOWSHIP
TEXT: 1 John 1:1-4
DATE: 05 March 2023

Welcome back to our sermon series today entitled *Biblical Life Words: Living By God’s Word*. The foundational Scripture for the series is *2 Timothy 3:16-17*.

*¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration God, and is profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished
unto all good works.*

I. LOOK:

We begin to examine the word, *Fellowship* by **LOOKING** at a number of Biblical References: Let’s go to God’s Word together!

Acts 2:42: And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 1:9: God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:14: Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 8:4: Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Galatians 2:9: And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the

right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Ephesians 3:9: And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 5:11: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Philippians 2:1-3: 1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 3:10: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;

1 John 1:6-7: 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

II. LEARN:

Note 1: SELECT

Our Focus Passage for the word **Fellowship** is:

1 John 1:1-4: ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Note 2: STUDY

Study Point 1: Our word for the week, *Fellowship*, is generally translated from the Greek word, *koinonia* and basically means a *common sharing*, a *communion*, a *partnership*, but for the most part it is translated as the word *Fellowship*.

In the world, we will all have a *common fellowship* with relatives, friends and even partners, who may or may not be believers or followers of Christ.

1 John 1:3 not only introduces us to the **purpose** of John's letter but begins to mark the real difference between the world's view and the Christian's view of the meaning for our word: *Fellowship*.

The reference to Christian *Fellowship* in **1 John 1:3** is different and unique from the worlds' use of the word, *Fellowship*. John and his friends have seen, experienced, and handled a new *fellowship in Jesus Christ* that's out of this world, in this world, for this world—a *fellowship* like no other!

John's letter speaks directly to the mutual spiritual partnership of all true followers of Jesus Christ who enjoy mutual godly possibilities, responsibilities and benefits. This Christ-like *Fellowship* is exclusively reserved and experienced by **true followers of Jesus Christ**.

Got Questions states: "We are united to one another by common beliefs, purposes, and goals. Our hearts and minds are "other-worldly" because we follow Jesus Christ, who said that His kingdom is not of this world (**John 18:36**). We know that we are strangers in this world, and we long for the time when we will be in our true home, heaven. The mystery and privilege that is Christian fellowship is that it exists because God has enabled it by His grace. Those who believe the gospel are united in the Spirit through Christ to the Father, and that **unity** is the basis of *fellowship*. This relationship is described by Jesus in His high-priestly prayer for His followers as recorded in: **John 17:23**: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. This fellowship that we see here was first modeled between God the Father and God the Son as seen in this verse, but it doesn't stop there; others are invited!"

N.T. Wright: "But it doesn't stop there. It gets even more breathtaking. This deep sharing of inner reality, this "fellowship" between Father and Son has been extended. It extends to all those who came to know, love and trust Jesus while He was alive, while He was, so to speak, on display as God's public unveiling of the

coming life. And now [this, it seems, is the point of the letter] this sharing, this “fellowship”, is open to others too, to others who didn’t have the chance to meet Jesus during His period of public display. This “sharing” can be, and is being, extended to anyone and everyone who hears the announcement about Jesus. They can come into “fellowship” with those who did see, hear, and handled Him. And they, in turn, are in “fellowship” with the Father and the Son, with the two Who are Themselves the very bedrock and model for what “fellowship”, in this fullest sense, really means. The point is this. God has spoken in Jesus; and God now speaks, through the words which Jesus’ friends speak and write about Him, to others also, in the intention and hope that they will come to share this same “fellowship”.

Note No. 3: SUMMARIZE

Statement 1: If we do not have Jesus Christ in common, we have nothing in common. If we are in *fellowship* with Jesus Christ, then, we are in *fellowship* with each other and we have everything in common.

Statement 2: Christ followers were never and are never meant to live their Christian life alone; we were created for *Fellowship*! After all, the Lone Ranger even needed Tonto! Followers of Jesus Christ don’t just get, they also give. *Hebrews 10:22-25:*

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Statement 3: Got Questions: “The importance of true Christian fellowship is that it reinforces these things in our mind and helps us to focus on Christ and His desires and goals for us. As iron sharpens iron, in true Christian fellowship Christians sharpen one another’s faith ...”

Statement No. 4: The **Mission Statement** for **Clark Fork Fellowship** represents our word for the week: **Fellowship**.

“Clark Fork Fellowship exists to live in fellowship with God and to share the fellowship of God.”

Statement 5: The **Foundational Scripture** for **Clark Fork Fellowship** also represents our word, **fellowship**, this week as well.

1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Statement 6: The Core Values of **Clark Fork Fellowship** also represents our word, **fellowship**. We **fellowship in Jesus Christ** together through **Worship**, the **Word**, **Work**, and **Witness**.

Statement 7: **Clark Fork Fellowship** is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, but, most importantly, we are Gods’ church, God’s **fellowship** of believers who *actively believe* that Jesus is building His church; the lost are being saved; and that the saved are being revived and restored!

III. LIVE OUT:

Action Step 1: Make sure you are a member of God’s eternal **fellowship** family through faith by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord:

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 John 5:13

³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Action Step 2: Knowing now, that you are truly a born-again child of God, plan to keep on growing and encouraging other followers of Jesus, to keep growing in Christ Jesus, as well.

1 Peter 2:2

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Action Step 3: Seek to become, as the Lord leads, a member of *the Clark Fork Fellowship* family. See the “**Guide to Membership at Clark Fork Fellowship**” on the back of your bulletin.

CONCLUSION

INVITATION

*Come just as you are. Hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are. Come and see. Come receive.
Come and live forever.
Life everlasting and strength for today.
Taste the Living Water and never thirst again!*