1Thess 27

Fellowship speaks to intimacy

Open today in 1Thess 2.

Keep Tim and Christina in prayer they are just coming off CVD-19 flu.

Thank you all for the recent cards and Christmas wishes you have sent me!

We will be on a short series related to fellowship and intimacy among Bels.

Many Christians confuse fellowship with Christian growth, which can happen in a small amount while talking and learning from serious students of the word.

But fellowship is not a replacement on any level of BD accurately handled and absorbed through the power of God the HS.

Pick it back up in 1Thessalonians chapter two and let us read right through to verse 10.

You will begin to see the full picture if you have been studying along with my ministry in recent weeks.

1Thes 2:3 For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

[1Th 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/4/s_1113004) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but *to please* God, who examines our hearts.

The more a Bel grows up spiritually the more they drop the façade about pleasing people and they begin to focus on their relationship with God.

/One of the signs of higher levels of spiritual growth is falling in love with God the Father. Finding yourself extremely content and desiring to be in tune with God as a growing child of HIS Royal Family. The cosmic system becomes increasingly, distasteful in your day-to-day life. \

[1Th 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/5/s_1113005) For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed— God is our witness—

Last lesson we looked at what God desires for Bels in the realm of giving and serving – a generous and joyful heart.

The Apostle Paul had to be careful because this region was so ripe with false religions, intellectual experts and charlatans that tickled your ears while they picked your pocket.

[1Th 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/6/s_1113006) nor did we seek honor from people, either from you or from others, though we could have asserted our authority as apostles of Christ.

The Apostle Paul was careful not be too assertive at first even though GOD had ordained him as the Apostle to the Gentiles and he had every right to come on strong if need be.

Both the church at Corinth and Thessalonica had some similarities – they were about 350 miles apart.

The letters to Thessalonica were written while Paul was in Corinth.

[1Th 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/7/s_1113007) But we proved to be gentle among you. As a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children,

/[1Th 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/8/s_1113008) in the same way **we had a fond affection for you** and were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but **also our own lives**, because you had become very dear to us.\

In a very short period of time Bels on the same path, serious student of the word can have a level of intimacy with like-minded Bels.

It is because true Christianity is untied in thought – singular truth of BD.

[1Th 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/9/s_1113009) For you recall, brothers *and sisters,* our labor and hardship: *it was by* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, *that* we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

The letters to Thessalonica and Corinth were written between 51 AD and 56 AD, the Apostle Paul was in the process of dropping his tent making career and getting fully focused on his Apostleship.

There is evidence that he probably should have done this years before, but he was concerned about the small group of men he travelled with.

The Apostle Paul took responsibility for men like Dr. Luke, Barnabus and Timothy or Silas.

The reality is, you cannot live on air! Apostles’, pastors and evangelist need support to function.

When grace is the protocol it is dependent upon growing Bels to recognize they need to use their time, talent and treasure to support good, godly ministries.

[1Th 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/10/s_1113010) You are witnesses, and *so is* God, *of* how devoutly and rightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

/1Thes 2:8 - *we had a fond affection*

*Homeiromai-* deep interest and affection, a longing to be with or become closer to something or someone. \

HIM-MY-ROW-MY, means one who is seeking intimacy, a strong desire.

We all have these natural desires and longings for people in our circle of family and friends - it is normal.

The Apostle Paul was genuinely telling these Bels at Thessalonica how he really enjoyed their company and wanted to be closer to them.

I would imagine the men like Jason who hosted Paul and his crew on the initial visit to Thessalonica were on the heart of the Apostle Paul.

Many Christians do not know how to organize and recognize the legitimate feelings or desires in relation to people and intimate relationships in their life.

They struggle with prioritizing intimacy and feelings or desires with their spiritual growth.

The reason there are so many problems and sins among Christians is simply because of wrong priorities.

 REPEAT

/You never put fellowship with people above your relationship or fellowship with God. You can never resolve priority with GOD by simply making time to think about God. Priority with GOD comes through the daily perception of Bible doctrine. Our closeness to Christ is only through HIS mind and our union with HIM.\

Jump over to Philippians chapter two RF.

Christian fellowship is no substitute for learning Bible doctrine from whomever is your right pastor. Your horizontal relationships (temporal), can never be organized or balanced if your vertical relationship (heavenly) is not the priority and then handled precisely.

 REPEAT

/2Cor 13:14 “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.”

 1Cor 1:9 “God the Father, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”\

Fellowship points to intimacy and the most important intimate relationship we have is with the Trinity.

If your intimacy with the Trinity is not in good working order all other relationships will suffer.

/*koinonia-* fellowship, mental and verbal intercourse. Communication in joint interests, a beneficial and close partnership. Participation in joint or close ventures and interests.\

COIN-OH-KNEE-A, points to a very special intimacy, a form of intellectual intercourse.

/Phlp 2:1 Therefore **if there is any encouragement in Christ**, if any consolation of love, **if any fellowship of the Spirit**, if any affection and compassion,

***IF*** 1st class condition – it is true, that only real encouragement and fellowship exists with the Triune God.\

If that relationship is not balanced and in order all other relationships will be lacking.

Bels have bad marriages and troublesome friendships usually because their relationship with God is out of whack!

/[Phl 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/2/s_1105002) make my joy complete by **being of the same mind**, maintaining the **same love**, **united in spirit**, intent on one purpose.

Real intimacy that holds up under time and pressure is from fellowship with God. Bels with the same mind (BD) and the filling power of the HS are unified.\

This is why you can go on a Bible Conference and inside of 20 minutes you already feel a deep connection with those Bels who are there participating.

Bels who are truly growing and applying BD connect on a different level.

Doctrinal orientation to life. Grace orientation to self and others.

It also points us to problem solving devices – because we are applying BD in the new nature we are now overcomers of stumbling blocks and cosmic problems.

[Phl 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/3/s_1105003) Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves;

This is the attitude of a Bel in the new nature applying BD to their life – others begin to take on more of a focus than self.

/[Phl 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/4/s_1105004) do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests,* but **also for the *interests* of others**.

Spiritual mature Bels have no problem in relation to looking after the interest of others.\

Their personal relationship with God is so strong that they rarely get caught up in petty nonsense or become self absorbed. They have a tendency toward objectivity not becoming subjective all the time.

/No Christian grows from social life or simple fellowship contact with other Bels. Occasionally we learn life lessons from fellowship with Bels but true spiritual growth is dependent upon a relationship with the Trinity. If your priority is fellowship with people over fellowship with God there is no spiritual growth.\

Fellowship with the Trinity is the most important and the true intimacy we are called into – all other relationships are secondary.

There are three areas or mechanics in relation to having fellowship with the Trinity;

/1. Accepting God’s (Father) plan and consistently adjusting to HIS justice system.

2. Our Union with Christ (new nature) and relationship with HIS mind (BD) active and consistently in our life.

3. Filling power of God the Holy Spirit (being in tune to the conviction and guidance of the Spirit).\

Those three mechanics or applications are extremely important and address having fellowship in order with the Trinity.

/*Interaction with Believers, called Christian fellowship, will never replace post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation. You will never have cognitive self-confidence from Christian fellowship. Cognitive self- confidence is not only your perception of doctrine, but the doctrinal mechanics for using the problem-solving devices. You must use them for yourself; you cannot lean on people.*

 *Col. R.B. Thieme Jr*.\

Epistemological rehabilitation – is a theological term for the deeper principles and studies within the NT letters, the epistles. More importantly mystery doctrine that the Apostle Paul was very focused on.

We are extremely oriented to the knowledge of human viewpoint and cosmic system trends and principles, after salvation we need mental rehabilitation.

Christian fellowship is no substitute for learning the mystery doctrine of the Church Age.

 REPEAT

/Fellowship with the Spirit is not called love. There is an intimacy with HS that differs slightly from God the Father and God the Son (Jesus Christ).

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**,\

It is called the *“filling of the Spirit*” in Eph 5:18, and *“walking by means of the Spirit”* in Gal 5:16.

It is tantamount to life inside the pre-designed plan of God.

Alcohol goes inside of you and when it fills you up, it controls you in the negative aspect.

When we are cleansed from any known sin the HS fills us up.

/Gal 5:16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Our intimacy with God the HS is a relationship of guidance, comfort and security within the arena of knowledge and insight. It is also the only bridge in the temporal to use for opening our Christ-like nature.\

God the HS wakes us up and cleanses us, once we adjust to the justice of God, that is what opens up your new nature.

It is the only power source that will make BD fully understandable and applicable.

/Eph 4:24 and to **put on the new self**, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Free will accounts for putting on our new nature – just as free will accounts for the gateway of salvation opening up for the Unbel.\

There are several ways of defining the filling power of the HS, the power which opens up the new nature so the Bel can walk in the new nature.

/Col 3:10 and have **put on the new *self,* which is being renewed** to a true knowledge according to **the** image of the One who created it—

2Jhn 1:6 And this is love, **that we walk according to His commandments**. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that **you are to walk in it.**\

The call is to put on the new nature and walk forward in that nature.

To walk, means repeatedly moving in a fashion that is military, like marching.

PERRI-PET-AT-OH, walking or marching in a certain manner.

Walk in the new nature is the translation.

/Rom 12:2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The transformation is the relationship with God the HS while taking in the WORD.\

We can not renew our mind from cosmic viewpoint or having social relationships, it takes an intimacy with the HS.

Fellowship with God the Holy Spirit.

/Eph 4:23 and that **you are to be renewed** in the **spirit** of your **minds**,

*Ananeoō –* renewed is much deeper in the original context – to make like new. Fresh or new, regenerated or born again.\

ANN-AH-NAY-O, comes from a root word which means it is like a new person a new born, fresh and new.

TLJC made it clear that when the CA finally kicked off in full – that God the HS would be active in a very different fashion than any other dispensation.

/Jhn 16:13 “But when He, **the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you** into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you** what is to come. 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and **will disclose it to you**.\

The more intimacy you have with GOD the HS the more you will find Bible doctrine will become very personal, especially Bible study.

You may hear a message very unique just for you. Just like today it may touch you in a unique way that another Bel does not get…they have been touched in another way.