1Thess 29

Christian fellowship in the right context is a blessing!

Open up in Matthew chapter 7 today RF we will bounce back into some principles I covered about 4 years ago.

Until a Bel grasps the concept of an orderly life and priorities they may be a Bel who bounces in and out of churches and different teachers with little growth to show for their efforts.

Sometimes it is easier to feel like you are growing spiritually by simply surrounding yourself with Christian friendship and assume you will grow.

This is a false concept. It tickles the emotions.

Though having a strong group of Christians as friend or family is a powerful weapon in the cosmic system warfare. It does not push your intellectual limits in the right direction. Many times, a Bel like that becomes people dependent which is a danger.

/The priority is to get doctrine to have deeper fellowship with God. Some Bels may be in situations of isolation or do not have easy access to accurate teaching of the word. This should become a high priority above giving or serving – first ensure you have consistent teaching in your life. This can be through listening (radio, TV, Internet) or reading (books and notes from a pastor).\

While some Bels are isolated from Christian fellowship, they are not isolated from the communication of Bible doctrine.

God always supplies a prepared pastor teaching BD for positive Bels.

In other words, positive volition will not be denied by God.

/Heb 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please *Him****,* for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* **He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him**.\

There is accurate teaching and opportunities for spiritual growth for those who apply faith and seek the truth.

/1Chr 28:9 “As for you, my son Solomon, **know the God of your father**, and **serve Him wholeheartedly and with a willing mind**; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. **If you seek Him, He will let you find Him;** but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.\

God expects that after salvation we have a desire to know HIM, a desire to pursue a relationship with HIM.

As a perfect gentleman, if you reject HIM after salvation and refuse to get serious HE will not force you into a relationship.

You never lose your salvation! Yet you will never gain any spiritual ground, nor will you have any insight and communication with the Trinity on a higher level. REPEAT

/Psa 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength; **Seek His face continually**.

Pro 8;17 “I love those who love me;
And **those who diligently seek me will find me**.\

The Hebrew verb for *diligently seek*, is one word - *šāḥar* (SHAC-HAIR). Which means from the break of dawn to late at night your efforts never cease – it means painstaking efforts. You start early and put in an honest effort.

This is not a works program – people love to hide behind grace and talk about works programs when you teach them, that after salvation we are called into spiritual warfare and called to grow in God’s grace and knowledge.

/Christian growth is not found on the couch waiting for God to drop everything in your lap. Just as it is not found in deeds of the flesh to prove yourself worthy or closer to God. Spiritual growth is found in an intimate and serious love relationship that you embark upon consistently with right motivation within the new nature.\

Remember what our LORD taught to the Apostles very early on in HIS earthly ministry.

Keep in mind the Apostles willingly allowed Jesus to lead them and they became closer to HIM over those 3 years. So close, that even family members within the Apostles family and friends didn’t fully understand the relationship they had with TLJC.

It isn’t fully recorded but the Apostles lost friends and some family members when TLJC was crucified.

The loss of friendship or family members isn’t often talked about but the Apostles all faced that type of loss. The Apostle Paul had the majority of his close friends connected to the Sanhedrin.

/Mat 7:7 **Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.

*Ask it will be given* – present, active imperative. This is a command and something to be done all the time!\

Jesus Christ was telling them - that this is the protocol for Bels.

The Apostles as future teachers needed to keep studying and growing, also their students would need to continually seek truth.

/Ask – points to the positive mental attitude, praying and thinking about our relationship with the Lord.

Seek – points to a lifestyle of moving toward truth, seeking consistent BD.

Knock – is application the physical abilities of finding truth and then applying it to your life.\

[Mat 7:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/7/8/s_936008) “For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Jesus makes a very matter of fact statement.

[Mat 7:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/7/9/s_936009) “Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone?

[Mat 7:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/7/10/s_936010) “Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

/[Mat 7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/7/11/s_936011) “So **if you, *despite* being evil**, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father**who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

***IF*** 1st class condition – a true statement, nothing good resides in our flesh.\

Almost every parent with a normal thought process will supply what their children need, we naturally care about our children.

Even with an OSN we can be good parents.

HOW MUCH MORE do you think God cares for us?

/Do not settle for weak teaching, false doctrine or emotional nonsense because the church is close to your house. Or because family members go there, never substitute convenience for truth. A serious Bel who wants growth and a real lasting relationship with GOD will seek out the accurate teaching of the word.\

For some positive Bels, BD is provided through face-to-face teaching in a local church. For others, doctrine is communicated through the internet, audio, video, books, radio, etc. God always supplies a right pastor-teacher with doctrine for the positive Believer.

 REPEAT

/Rom 10:14 How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? **How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard**? And **how are they to hear without a preacher?**

The information you absorb is your foundation of spirituality and it is your responsibility! \

There are no excuses for not growing in God’s plan and finding the journey HE has called you on for your life.

In the end your time, talent and treasure will either be wasted on false teachers, lies and emotional nonsense which lifted up the kingdom of darkness, or you will be recognized and rewarded for pursuing and supporting BD.

/Jer 2:3 “**You generation, look to the word of the LORD.** Have I been a
wilderness to Israel, Or a land of
thick darkness? Why do My people say, **‘We *are free to* roam; We will no
longer come to You’**?

No Bel has a ministry of self, built on thoughts and wishes from what they perceive God’s word tells them to do every day.\

We all have ministries we get called into at different points. But I can guarantee that any ministry God designs is built on correct theology and touches others not just self!

/*Not everyone’s right pastor is located in the same geographical location. Under the principle of supply and demand, the demand of positive volition is for accurate Bible teaching regardless of the geographical location. Therefore, accurate Bible teaching can only come through someone who is prepared and who is teaching line upon line, precept upon precept, especially the mystery doctrine for the Church Age.*

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

One big stumbling block is personality conflicts and arrogant Bels who want a pastor who tickles their ears or teaches what they believe.

A pastor should push you to be a critical thinker and examine the scriptures. Yet many Bels get offended easily because they are subjective, so they bounce around until they find a teacher who makes them feel good.

This is one reason some Bels rely on fellowship with Christians for their crutch in spiritual growth.

Christian fellowship is nice to have if there is no legalism involved, but Christian fellowship cannot advance the Believer in God’s plan, purpose, or God’s will for their life.

If you have to ever make a choice between Christian fellowship or Bible doctrine, you have to choose BD over social life, otherwise you are dead in the water as far as spiritual growth is concerned.

  REPEAT

Let me list the disadvantages to Christian fellowship as we get ready to close this series out.

/Christian fellowship can establish wrong priorities through interaction with confused Bels, the weak or confused controls the strong Bel. Christian fellowship can become a huge distraction through the occupation with friendship or romance. You become concerned or distracted by intimate relationships. Then the focus goes off GOD and His word onto emotions.\

Sadly, some Christians go to a church or sit under a pastor because family or a friend has influenced them into that position.

/Christian fellowship becomes the basis for legalism through association with legalists. Christian fellowship becomes the basis for involvement in antinomianism through association with promiscuous Bels. Some use Christian fellowship to break free of loneliness or seek fellowship as a dating service. The worst-case scenario is you end up lost and confused from false teaching. Wasting months or years falling for Satan’s counterfeits.\

We will close today reading from 2Timothy chapter three.

/If you have fellowship with Christians who are struggling with arrogance and wrong priorities it will eventually rub off on you! Those who touch your life in intimate relationships have the strongest influence in your choices. This is why having fellowship with the Trinity as a priority will push you toward maturity and keep you on guard about false teaching and inappropriate fellowship.\

Christian fellowship when it is balanced and in order, is a source of great joy and strength.

/Appropriate fellowship with Christians is not a distraction and never confuses the issue of BD over social life. Healthy fellowship increases our scope and interest in BD. A balanced fellowship lifestyle gives us strength in unity without sacrificing truth and infringing on our relationship with God.\

Those who distract you from BD need to be removed or kept in check – those who help you get deeper into BD are great assets.

Interestingly enough, when the Apostle Paul was teaching Timothy about being a good pastor-teacher, he gave Timothy warnings related to this subject matter.

2Tim 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

/[2Ti 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/2/s_1128002) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,\

Many of the items on this list that the Apostle Paul is going over are related to BELS!

[2Ti 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/4/s_1128004) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

/[2Ti 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/5/s_1128005) **holding to a form of godliness** form of godliness although **they have denied its power**; avoid *such people as* these.

They speak of Christianity and appear godly, yet do not understand the principles of the two power options.\

Bels with no power, simply means it is either ignorance of BD or inaccurately studying the word of God. Also having no clue about walking in their new nature.

[2Ti 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/6/s_1128006) For among them are those who slip into households and captivate weak women weighed down  with sins, led on by various impulses,

/2Ti 3:6 - The *weak women* statement points us to emotional waves – this is not just about the ladies!

Various impulses speaks to those more concerned with gossip and mental attitude sins and wrong priorities – both male and female BELS!\

[2Ti 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/7/s_1128007) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

That is the end result when your spiritual life is not in order.

/[2Ti 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/8/s_1128008) Just as **Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses**, so these men also oppose the truth, **men of depraved mind**, worthless in regard to the faith.

These were the popular and powerful magicians of the day – most Egyptians looked up to these men as spiritual leaders.\

We have a lot of Jannes and Jambres around today in 2022!

[2Ti 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/3/9/s_1128009) But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be obvious to all, just as was that also of Jannes and Jambres.

This problem of rejecting truth and rejecting good Bible teachers all starts with rejection of authority.

/Rejection of authority often begins with disobedience to your parents first. Yet sometimes arrogance creeps in later in life and we struggle with accepting authority that does not meet our own desires. Either way, if what you are being taught is accurate and you can only buck against the teacher with emotions not facts and truth – you are being led by impulses not BD.\

You have no capacity for anything because you are ungrateful, unholy, and unloving as Paul pointed out to Timothy in 2Tim chapter three.

When the Apostle Paul spoke about -Brutality, this does not always express itself in violence, but also in the vicious use of the tongue in slander, gossip, and maligning.

These types of Bels are unteachable, usually because of a form of pride and hardness of heart.

They lean toward subjectivity and rarely know how to approach Bible teaching from objectivity and proper study habits.

Hyper sensitivity pops up when truth is presented to someone who is comfortable in a lie.

/1Sam 2:3 “Do not go on boasting so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; **For the
LORD is a God of knowledge,** And
with Him actions are weighed. \