

1 John 1:1–9

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, concerning the Word of life—

² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Fellowship *1 Corinthians 1:9 and other verses*

INTRO:

After each special event in this church, the leadership and the pastors seek to evaluate what took place. We use a tool developed by the army and promoted by the Harvard Business School, called an “After Action Report.” The first question on this form is: “What were we trying to accomplish?” The major purpose of Family Camp is to promote family and fellowship in the church here.

This begs the question we will try to answer today. What is fellowship and why is it important?

I. Fellowship is the Reason for Our Salvation (1 Corinthians 1:9)

II. Our Fellowship in Christ is based on our fellowship with Christ (1 John 1:3-7)

III. Fellowship Must Be a Priority in God's Church (Acts 2:42)

I. Fellowship is the Reason for Our Salvation (1 Corinthians 1:9)

1 Corinthians 1:9 *“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

A. Fellowship as you probably know is the translation of the Greek word koinonia. It is built on the root for common. Fellowship means to share together in common. How do we share in common in Christ?

B. When Christ saves us, we have died together with Christ, we are buried together with Christ and we are raised together with Christ.

Romans 6:1–5 *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”*

C. Through our relationship with Christ we have the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead working in us. This is the power that changes us from being dead in Christ to being alive in Him. It is the divine power that conforms us into the image of Christ.

Ephesians 1:18-20 *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; in order that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”*

II. Our Fellowship in Christ is based on our fellowship with Christ (1 John 1:3-7)

1 John 1:3-7 *“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

A. Observation number one: Our practical fellowship with one another is the result of our fellowship with the Father and with His Son. We cannot have a real fellowship with one another if we do not have the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior.

verse 3 *“In order that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*

B. Observation two: The fellowship John focuses in on is our fellowship with God through Christ. We have to fellowship with God based on His holiness. A person who says they fellowship with God and who so not live a life of holiness are lying. The secret to this fellowship is constant awareness and confession of our sin (see **1 John 1:9**).

III. Fellowship Must Be a Priority in God's Church (Acts 2:42)

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

B. Four different activities characterized the worship of the first church.

1. They continued in the Apostles' teaching.
2. The Bible was the centerpiece and priority in their church. They continued in the fellowship. The fellowship with Christ and with each other.
3. They regularly celebrated the Lord's Supper.
4. Lastly, they prayed.

C. Does that describe our church? Are these four things priorities to us?

What does all of this teach us?

1. Do you know the Lord as Savior? The fellowship we enjoy with God and with His Son is wholly built on what Christ did for us in salvation.
2. Is your personal fellowship with Christ in His Word so real that you have something to share together with others who know Him?
3. What about our habits of holiness? Are we seeking to walk in the light as He is in the light so we may have fellowship one with another?