

The Book of 1 Thessalonians

“Life in Christ
until HE Returns”

1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

“Fellowship with a Holy God”



1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 (NKJV)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Outline:

1. What is fellowship with God?

2. How do we have fellowship with God?

3. Why should we have fellowship with God?



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What is Fellowship with GOD:

A. Observations:



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What is Fellowship with GOD:

A. Observations:

- 1- It is different than a relationship cf. 3: 11; 4: 1
- 2- It is a process of growth cf. 4: 1b, 1 Thess. 3: 13
- 3- It is a “walk” with God cf. 4: 1c
- 4- It is pleasing to God cf. 1c
- 5- It is accompanied by commands cf. 4: 2
- 6- It is the will of God
- 7- It is synonymous with “sanctification



What is Fellowship with GOD:

B. Summary:

Fellowship with God is for those who have received eternal life through Faith in Christ, and enjoy the “abundant life” that is found only in Him.

(see Jn. 10: 10)



John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

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How do we have fellowship with God:

A. Abstaining from Sexual immorality



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How do we have fellowship with God:

- A. Abstaining from Sexual immorality
- B. Illustration #1 (vessel)



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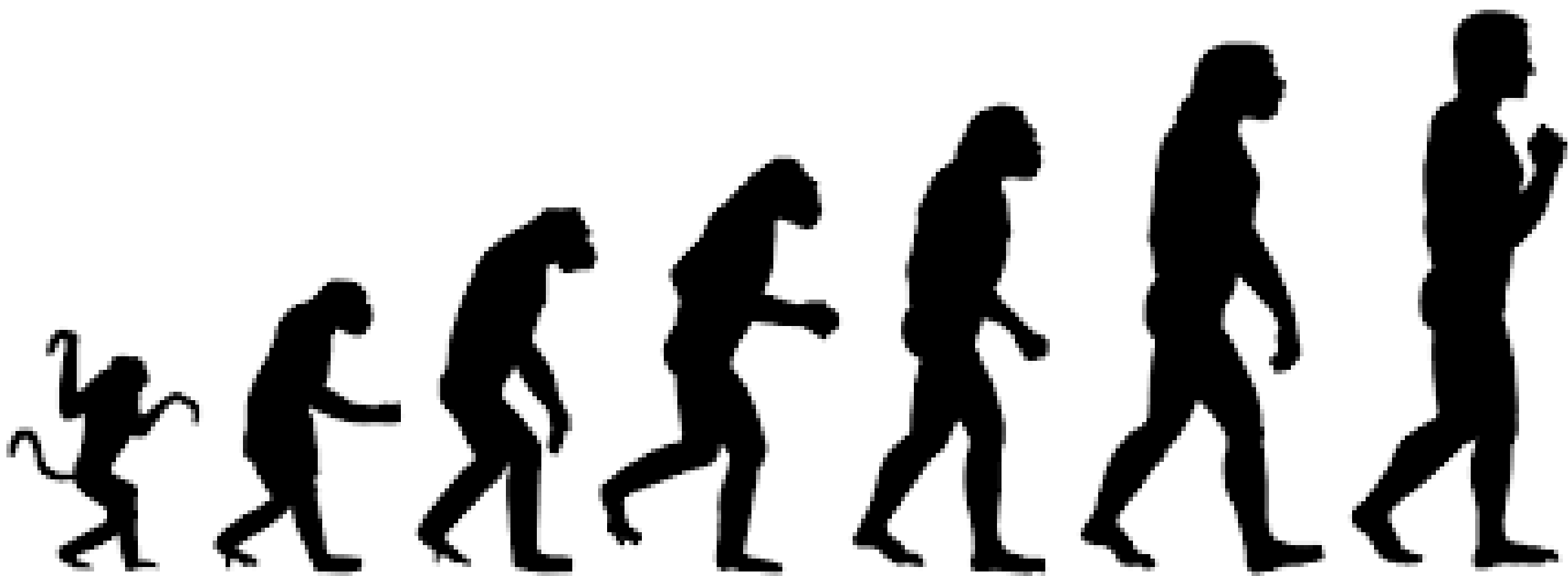
How do we have fellowship with God:

- A. Abstaining from Sexual immorality
- B. Illustration #1 (vessel)
- C. Illustration #2 (Gentile worldview)



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How do we have fellowship with God:

- A. Abstaining from Sexual immorality
- B. Illustration #1 (vessel)
- C. Illustration #2 (Gentile worldview)
- D. Don't defraud your brother in these matters



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Why should we have fellowship with God:

A. The Lord is the avenger of such



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1 Corinthians 3:13–17 (NKJV)

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Why should we have fellowship with God:

- A. The Lord is the avenger of such
- B. God called us to Holiness



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Why should we have fellowship with God:

- A. The Lord is the avenger of such
- B. God called us to Holiness
- C. Rejecting this is rejecting God



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Why should we have fellowship with God:

- A. The Lord is the avenger of such
- B. God called us to Holiness
- C. Rejecting this is rejecting God
- D. Because: “given us His Holy Spirit”

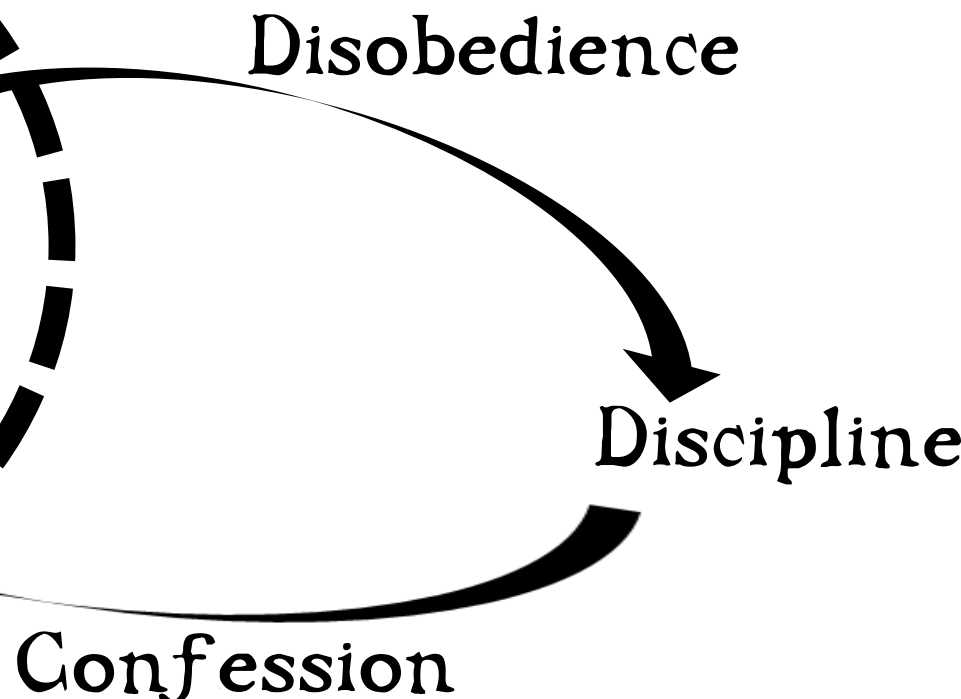
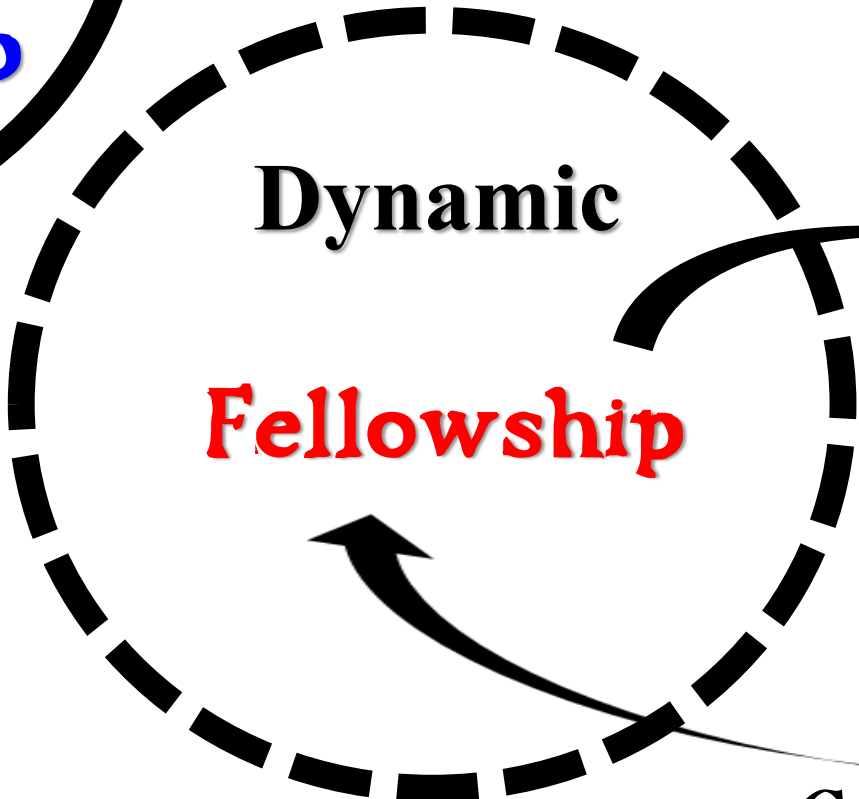
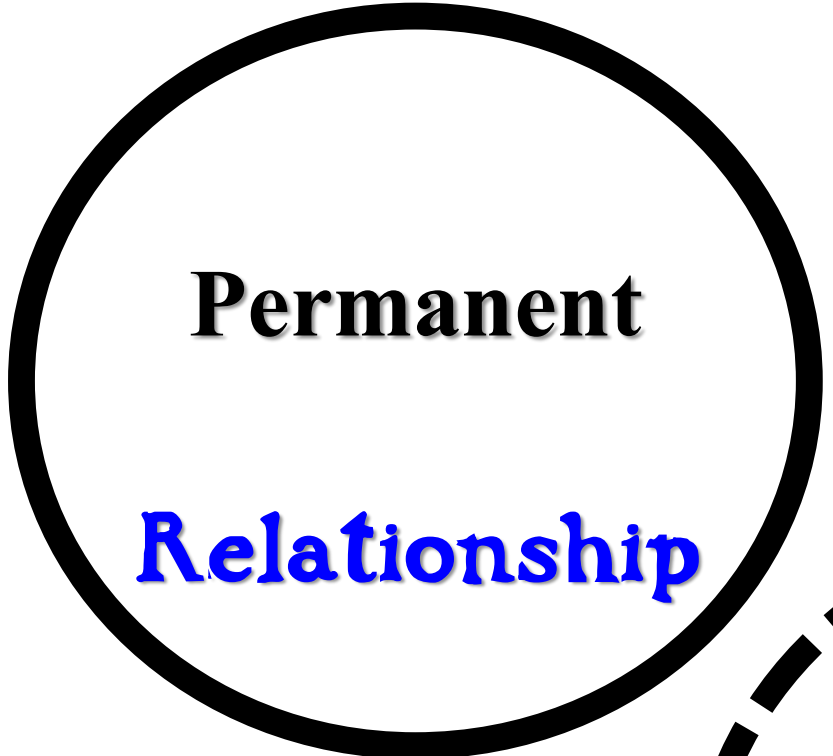


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Galatians 5:13–17 (NKJV)

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.



*Cited from Jeremy Thomas

Application:



- Do I understand the difference between relationship and Fellowship?
- Is sexual immorality and issue in my life?
- Is my sexual immorality impacting others?
- Am I utilizing confession (1 Jn. 1: 9) as well as renewing my mind (Rom. 12: 2)

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



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