

Fellowship

# "What is your Relationship to Other Christians?"



Once you become a Christian, you discover there is a whole new family awaiting you. Learning to interact within God's family is an important part of growing as a Christian.

**LESSON 12** 

The purpose of this lesson is to give you instruction regarding the principles that govern your relationships with other Christians. God provides guidelines that must be followed so that fellowship with other believers can flourish.

Copyright 1994 (This book revised August, 1997)
3rd Printing—September, 1999
4th Printing—December 2000
5th Printing—December 2001
6th Printing—March 2005

New King James Version

Faith Baptist Church 700 N. Main St., Sellersville, PA 18960 No part of this material may be reproduced without written permission.

#### INTRODUCTION

When we trusted Christ as our personal Savior, we became part of a new family—God's family. Our Heavenly Father is God himself. We are one of His children. But God has many children, and as His children, we have a special and unique relationship to other Christians.

Often in the Bible our relationship to other Christians is called "fellowship." It is important that we learn how to function within our new family. We need the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ as much as they need us. To a great extent, all believers are dependent upon one another.

Fellowship is the sharing of our life with other believers. The common bond which unites us is Jesus Christ. Christ's willingness to share His life now motivates us to share our life with others. His principles, given in the Bible, provide the guidelines which govern our interaction with other believers.

Fellowship is vital in the life of a Christian! In fact, it is next to impossible to grow as a Christian without the fellowship of other believers.

As we study this lesson, we should see the importance of fellowship in our life as well as in the family of God. We need to learn the basic principles which will help us structure our life as a Christian.

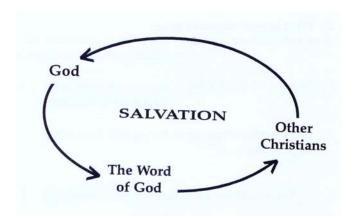
### THE BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP

# Ou

ır R	telat	cionship with God
1.		cording to John 1:12-13, how do you become a part of d's family?
2.	In l	John 3:1-2, what are you in relation to God?
3.	Rea	ad I John 1:1-3
	a.	From what is taught in verse 3, why is John writing to you?
	b.	From the truths of verse 3, with whom do you have fellowship?

4. In I John 3:10, what two things are unique about a Christian?

Fellowship, then, is a result of being born again into God's family through trusting Christ as Savior. Our salvation is that which we have in common with other Christians. We now have a unique and special relationship with God and with other Christians. The first basic element which enables us to have fellowship is the common bond of salvation.



#### Our Walk of Faith

Our relationship to Christ is essential for our fellowship with other believers. Obedience enhances fellowship! When a believer does not live in obedience to God's Word, it disrupts fellowship. Our commitment to obey God along with other Christians' commitment to obey is what provides proper fellowship.

How important is this principle? Let's note what the Bible teaches us to do when a "fellow-believer" lives in disobedience to God's Word.

- a. According to II Thessalonians 3:14-15, how should you respond to a disobedient believer?
- b. Matthew 18:15-17 instructs you concerning a Christian who sins against you.
  - 1) What is your response to be?

2) What further steps are to be taken if there is no repentance?

c. What does I Corinthians 5:1-8 instruct a church to do with those who refuse to walk properly?

# Fellowship then is the result of Our relationship with God Our walk of obedience

#### PRINCIPLES OF FELLOWSHIP

The following verses teach us our responsibilities, as a Christian, to other Christians.

a. What does Jesus teach in John 13:34-35 regarding your relationship to others?

b. What does I John 3:11,23 instruct you to do?

## Disciple ship - Fellowship

c.	List some possible ways you can display your love for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
d.	According to Ephesians 4:31-32, what responsibility do you have to other Christians?
e.	What does Galatians 6:1 teach you to do when another Christian sins?

f.	According to Matthew 18:21-22, how many times should you forgive one who sins against you?
g.	Galatians 5:13 teaches another responsibility you have in relation to other Christians. What is it?
h.	What are some ways you can enact this principle?
oug pri	ese are principles God has given so that fellowship can be what it ght to be among God's people. We must learn to live out these nciples in our life as a Christian so that we can enjoy the fellowp of other believers.

#### **CONCLUSION**

When we study the life of Christ, we will find these are the principles that govern His relationship with us. In turn, Christ calls us to make these principles the guidelines in our relationship to other Christians.

We must live by these principles so we can know the joy and benefits of fellowship with other Christians.

Memory Verse Ephesians 4:32



Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.