

Fellowship
Part III
March 31, 2019
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

1 John 3:4

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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

Last week in our call to the fellowship of God's people, the Lord instructed us that we are to abandon the fellowship of the world - and as we turn from that we are to embrace the fellowship of the righteous.

We know, just as surely as has been proven time and again that we will become more and more like those with whom we place our fellowship.

Fellowship is "participation together".

[*koinōnia*](#)

koy-nohn-ee'-ah

From [G2844](#); *partnership*, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary)

benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

We saw how that our general fellowship together with the rest of the body gives us a platform from which we can reach out to our loved ones and acquaintances and co-workers and others that are seeking the Lord and bring them in so that they can begin to see what knowing Jesus is really like.

Jesus made a promise in

John 12:32-33

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

The Lord was lifted up on the cross; He did give His life a ransom for many and He IS right now drawing all men to Himself.

As the Lord draws us to Himself, He draws us to the fellowship of His son. That is why you are here today.

I. We are called to the fellowship of the Son of God.

A. This is the calling of every real New Testament Church.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:9-10

9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2. How is it that so many people from so many different backgrounds can truly be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment?

3. This is truly something unheard of in the world.

4. But with the Word of God as the final authority for each and every one of us, we can indeed be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

5. The basis of our fellowship is Jesus...and who is Jesus?

6. He is the Word of God made flesh:

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

B. With the Word of God as our foundation and the Spirit of God dwelling in each of us, we can indeed function as one.

1. This is God's calling to Lighthouse Baptist Church.

2. What is it called when we function as one?

3. It is called fellowship!

4. **Philippians 2:1-7**

1 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any bowels and mercies,
2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...

5. The early Church left us an example to follow:

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

II. Concerning our “participation together” or fellowship, we are commanded to include several other very specific areas.

A. One of those other specific areas is known as the fellowship of the mystery.

1. Ephesians 3:1-11

1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

2. We are living in the New Testament dispensation of grace,

Ephesians 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3. Never has there been an age before us that the grace of God has been so abundantly and so pro-actively poured out upon all men.

4. The message of John 3:16 was not published in previous ages as it is preached today.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

5. There is no John 3:16 in the Old Testament!

6. Never before has there been a worldwide command to spread the good news to “every creature” that their sins are now paid for and that all men, yes, any man, every man can be set free!

7. **1 John 2:2**

And he [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

7. The partition dividing us has now been broken down and we Gentiles can now be fellow heirs and even of the same Body through the power of the glorious Gospel of Christ.

8. Ephesians 2:11-20

11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who soetimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

9. We get to work together, to take upon us the fellowship of delivering this, the greatest of all news, to every person; no matter how vile they are or how good they think they are.

*B. This goes hand in hand with our next specifically commanded area of fellowship; the **fellowship of the Gospel.***

1. **Philippians 1:1-6**

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5 For **your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now;

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

2. Paul is referring specifically to the support provided him from the Church at Philippi.
 3. In [verse 27](#) Paul said they were “[striving together for the faith of the Gospel](#)”.
 4. We are not only to band together to reach everyone we can with the greatest news there ever was here where we are;
 5. We have an obligation to support and encourage missionaries from other real Churches who are getting the job of reaching the lost done in other parts of the world as well.
 6. Every check we sent to a missionary, every time we pray for a missionary, every time we encourage a missionary we are participating together in the fellowship of the gospel.
- C. One very personal area of our fellowship is the fellowship of His sufferings.*

1. **Philippians 3:7-10**

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;

2. There are people who know about the Lord; there are also people who have truly come to know Him, to know the Lord through a true salvation experience.

3. There are also believers who have desired and do desire to truly know the Lord in an intimate and much closer daily walk with Him.

4. Do you really want to know the Lord?

5. To know Him like your closest and best friend but even more so?

6. That intimate knowledge of Him comes only one way and that one way is through suffering.

7. Some think that suffering is only for the disobedient, that God would never want any of His children to suffer.

8. **1 Peter 4:12-19**

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God

resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that **suffer according to the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

9. Every true servant, every preacher who is the real deal, every heart that yearns to be closer to the Lord will be tempered in the fire of suffering.

10. It is when we suffer that we begin to understand the love that put Jesus on that cross for our sins.

D. The final area of fellowship we will look at today is the fellowship of ministering to the saints.

1. **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2. When Christians go through periods of suffering, it is incumbent upon the rest of us to step up and help; financially or in whatever way we can.

3. Some would say, "I can't help them, I can barely get by myself".

4. Let me remind you that it was while in deep poverty that these Macedonian Churches brought forth the help they did.

5. When you take upon yourself the fellowship of ministering to the saints, you are stepping up to help God's Children.

6. How do you suppose God will react to those who step up to bless His kids in their time of suffering?

7. **Proverbs 19:17** He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

8. God is going to provide the means for you to participate in helping others in their time of need.

9. But even if He didn't, helping your suffering brothers and sisters in the Lord is a debt you owe.

10. **Romans 13:7-8**

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Conclusion:

We've just begun a new series on Friday nights of Financial Peace University. The goal of being financially debt free is a worthwhile and wonderful thing on many levels.

There is one debt, however, that you will never be free of...the debt of love toward one another.

As we enjoy the fellowship of the Son of God...

As we join together in the work of spreading the good news that life and that more abundantly is waiting for anyone who will place their trust in Jesus...

As we give and join together with missionaries around the world...

As we yield ourselves to accept the suffering it takes to truly know Jesus...

As we join in ministering to other saints in need...

Fellowship in all these areas is not a burdensome duty as some might see it.

These are opportunities to see God in action; to experience His presence and to see His life-changing power working in us!

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Especially in the fellowship of ministering to the saints, there are always some that would use you.

There are always some that want you to pay their bills or buy their groceries or give them money when the reality is that they just want you to enable them to use their own money for their beer and cigarettes.

We've had those in the past who have gone from member to member preying upon your sympathy who were not in genuine need at all.

When this comes up, if you will check with the Pastor or one of our Deacons or Elders, we will usually know if the need is real or not.

Even this last week we were able to use the last of the Hurricane Harvey flood fund to get our final affected member back in their flooded house.

Again; fellowship comes at a price. Let us be willing to meet that price.