

Basic Christianity



Part II



"¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



"The entrance of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple."

Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study is either from
NIV or NKJV**



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Global Good News Literature Correspondence Course

These lessons can be used for individual or group Bible Study. They can also be used by a person who has the responsibility of teaching new believers or discipleship classes. For those of you who would like to take the course with us, you would have to register and get your Student ID from us. The main purpose of this correspondence course is to help new believers and those who would like to strengthen their Christian foundation, send their roots down and grow in the Lord, by learning the basic concepts or foundational truths of Christianity.

As it is said, "You can bring a horse to the water but you cannot force him to drink"; unless the student follows up these lessons diligently and reads the scripture references carefully, he/she cannot get the full benefit of the courses. We encourage everyone to study these lessons with an open Bible so that you can read the verses for yourselves. We also encourage you to have your own notebook where you can write the things the Holy Spirit teaches you through these lessons.

Then you can continue the correspondence course by sending the answers to the questions that are at the end of each lesson.

This course contains twelve foundational lessons divided into three parts. If the contents of these lessons are taken seriously and applied accordingly, they would help the student to be firmly established in his/her Christian walk with the Lord. To achieve this desired target, we encourage the student to do the questions at the end of each lesson in a thoughtful manner where the answers are found within each preceding lesson.

For those who would like to correspond with us, we would like you to send us the answers for each section (Part I, II and III) so that we can check your answers and send you a certificate of completion.



Lesson Five

FELLOWSHIP

What is Fellowship?

The Apostle Peter refers to those who have received eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as; **“A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”** 1 Peter 2:9-10

The above verse is telling us that if we are a believer in Christ, we are all in the family of God.

The Apostle John also tells us that we are all the children of God. John 1:12 **“But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name.”**

In his 1st epistle, John says, **“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that **you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.**”** 1 John 1:3

He is telling us that **we should have fellowship with each other because all believers have one Father and one Lord Jesus Christ which makes us all brothers and sisters.** We cannot claim to have fellowship with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ without having fellowship with our brothers and sisters. 1 Cor. 12:13 says that **“we were all given the one Spirit to drink”**. In 1 Cor. 12, Paul also tells us that **we are members of the one Body of Christ. Just like the different**



organs of a body have to work in harmony, so do we, as members of the Body of Christ.

In Psalms 133:1-3 David gives us a wonderful picture of fellowship among believers.

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore"

This passage shows us the beauty of fellowship and the inherent blessing found in it. Fellowship is not only a blessing to those who are partaking in it, but it also has an aroma that reaches those who are outside of it.

In the book of Acts, we read that the early church was practicing this kind of fellowship.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47



We see many key words in this passage:

“Devotion”, “Teaching”, “Fellowship”, “Breaking of Bread”, “Prayer”, “Together”, “Helping those in need”, “Sincere hearts”, “Praising”

All these words are part of a healthy fellowship.

And the results of a healthy fellowship are:

- Signs and Wonders
- Gods’ favor upon them
- The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Fellowship is not just in good times but more so when there is opposition and persecution.

“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

“³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.” Acts 4:23-24, 31-32

When the Bible talks about fellowship, it is talking about “The fellowship in the Holy Spirit.”

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14

Christian Fellowship differs from secular associations mainly because the Holy Spirit is the bond that holds it together. That is why the



Apostle Paul tells us to: “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:3

Why is Fellowship important?

“²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb. 10:24-25

1. **The Unity of the Spirit is strengthened.** When the Unity of the Spirit is strengthened, the Body of Christ, the Church, grows in a healthy manner and can accomplish her God-given assignment on this earth in victory.
2. **Each believer would be encouraged to exercise his/her God-given gifts,** which would be a blessing for the whole body.
3. **Love grows.** Love by its nature requires a recipient. Love grows through praying together, enjoying God’s goodness together, and sharing our blessings and adversities together.
4. **It helps us to encourage one another unto good works.** Our strength doesn’t just add up, but gets multiplied as we get together in the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 32:30)
5. **It helps us to understand God’s plan and purpose for our lives** because God usually speaks to us through our brothers and sisters. His Word, his Counsel, and his guidance usually flow through his people.
6. **We receive the Blessing and Life promised to those who fellowship in His name.** (Psalms 133)

How can fellowship be strengthened?



Christian fellowship is not manufactured by the get together of few individuals, but is created because of their common faith in Jesus Christ and through the flow of the Holy Spirit in and through each believer.

According to Eph. 4:2-3

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

and Philippians 2:1-8:

“¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

Christian Fellowship is strengthened through:

- Humility/ Considering others better than ourselves.
- Love
- Peace
- patience
- Not favoring our own



As the fruit of the Spirit, mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, grow in our lives, our fellowship also grows and matures. **For the fruit of the Spirit to grow in our lives, we have to walk in the Spirit.** If we follow the desires of the flesh, the result is back biting and self-destruction. (Gal 5:25-26)

Our Unity is very important for the Lord.

God requires Spiritual Unity from his children. In John 17, Jesus prayed about our Unity.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: **²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

The above verses tell us that unity is:

1. One of the ways we show that we have One Father.
2. The proof that Jesus was God’s messenger. Our unity, itself, is a message to the world.
3. That we are in Christ and in the Father.
4. That we have been loved by Him

These verses show us how important our fellowship and unity are. We have to give it the utmost value and care. Nevertheless, it does not mean it is easy and natural. **Since our enemy, the devil, knows how important it is and that God’s blessing and life flows in and through our fellowship, he vehemently attacks the fellowship of believers and the Unity of the Spirit.** So, it is inevitable that problems that challenge



and sometimes break our fellowship would arise. When the enemy brings discord and disagreements among us, it is not time to blame each other and distance ourselves from each other. We should humbly seek the Lord's face and guidance regarding the disagreement and talk with one another in Love and according to the Word of God to come to one accord.

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.” Rom 12:16

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and **do not give the devil a foothold.” Eph 4:25-27**

How does fellowship or Unity get broken?

1. **Sin.** What broke Adam & Eve's fellowship with God was Sin. Sin not only breaks our fellowship with God, but it also breaks the fellowship among believers. Sin, also grieves the Holy Spirit who is the glue of our fellowship.
2. **Conceit.** Conceit is when we give more value to ourselves and less to others. **It is the opposite of humility.** The disciples had this problem among themselves.

“They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last,



and the servant of all.” ³⁶ He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:33-37

3. **Being selfish.** We read in the Gospels, John and James asking to sit on the right and left side of Jesus in his Kingdom. This selfish request stirred envy and hatred amongst the disciples. And the Lord gracefully corrected them from this selfish desire.
4. **When a member of the Body of Christ neglects his/her own gifting and grace and gets into an area that is not his or hers.** This brings discord to the body. The Bible tells us that God is a God of order, not chaos.

“If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” 1 Cor. 12:15-20

5. When those things necessary for strengthening fellowship are lacking. Love, Humility, Peace, Patience etc....

**May The Lord help us
KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT.**



Lesson 5 – Fellowship - QUIZ

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____
Student Name: _____
Address: _____

1. What is the origin/source of believer's fellowship?
2. How is fellowship depicted in Psalms 133? What do they signify?
3. What makes Christian fellowship different from other fellowships?
4. What is the fruit/result of true Christian fellowship?
5. What are some of the ways Christian fellowship gets broken?
6. What is Christian Unity testimony of?
7.
 - a. As a believer, what are some of the things you must do to keep the unity of the Spirit?
 - b. Among these things, which do you consider needing more strengthening? Make clear plans to strengthen them.