

20200812 – THE FELLOWSHIP OF A SERVANT

The Calvary Road – I John 1:1-10

Challenge: After we are broken from self and filled with Him, we must KEEP being filled!

Points: Basic Friendship, Broken Fellowship, Busy Fixes, Building Forward, and Bowing Forever

I. BASIC FRIENDSHIP

- A. When I was lost, I thought I had friends
 - 1. Once I got Saved, they all faded away
 - 2. Why? Because we had little in common any longer
 - 3. But that was just friendship, the Bible talks here about something else
 - 4. FELLOWSHIP
- B. The basis of our fellowship with one another
 - 1. Jesus is why we can have fellowship with one another (vs. 3)
 - a. If not for Salvation, then where is true love?
 - b. For we cannot understand love from this World's perspective
 - c. Love and Lust cannot be defined by society
 - d. Only Jesus is the example:
 - i. For GOD so (in this way) loved the world
 - ii. That He Gave!
 - iii. That's a commitment! That's ALL IN
 - iv. He held NOTHING back in His love for you and I
 - e. This world knows nothing of love. Nor Fellowship!
 - 2. Unequally Yoked
 - a. 2 Corinthians 6:14 – “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - i. Isn't it interesting that light and darkness are listed there?
 - ii. This world doesn't understand the fellowship of Christians
 - b. What binds us together? Not church membership in this case
 - i. This book is a not a church epistle. To the Christian!
 - ii. To have fellowship... we must first be (wait for it) fellows!
 - iii. That means we must hold somewhat in common
 - c. John tells us how it happened (vs. 3)
 - i. They preached. The people believed.
 - ii. And now we have fellowship with each other
 - iii. Because God allows us to have fellowship with HIM!
 - iv. Sweet fellowship with God, fellowship with each other
 - 3. Marriages, businesses, clubs, you name it
 - a. CANNOT work without this MOST BASIC thing in common
 - b. Start a business with someone who cannot speak English?
 - c. This is FAR more basis to your life

- d. Even if you don't know it yet!
- C. Because of that most basic foundation of all fellowship between us
 - 1. It is critical that we maintain our fellowship with God
 - a. It is the bedrock of all fellowship (vs. 7)
 - b. IF – demonstrates the conditionality of this statement
 - c. There is only one way to walk in fellowship with each other
 - d. And that is to walk in fellowship with God
 - 2. We must walk in Light
 - a. In Him is no darkness at all – vs. 5
 - b. Therefore: Vs. 6 and 7 explains
 - c. He is a light so bright that He sees us as we truly are
 - d. He is a light so bright that He reveals us to ourselves
 - i. Any little shadow we hide
 - ii. Any darkness to which we cling
 - iii. He makes it LIGHT as day!
 - 3. So - IF we regard iniquity in our hearts
 - a. IF we SAY we have fellowship with Him
 - b. And walk in darkness, then we LIE
 - c. Amos 3:3 – “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
 - d. That's an interesting definition of repentance, btw
 - e. And if two are not agreed?
 - 4. Then fellowship is broken

II. BROKEN FELLOWSHIP

- A. It all goes back to the Garden
 - 1. The act of sin – Yea hath God said? No longer in agreement!
 - a. Genesis 3:6 – “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
 - b. Sin breaks fellowship with God
 - i. You and I can have different opinions and it's alright
 - ii. In the world's economy, we can both be right
 - iii. But you cannot have a different opinion from God
 - iv. Romans 3:4 – “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.”
 - c. In sin, it is WE who walked away from God (God never changes)
 - 2. The clear-eyed choice of sin – Who told thee? No longer in agreement!
 - a. Genesis 3:7 – “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

- b. If you're Saved, and sin, the Holy Spirit makes SURE you know!
 - c. If you can sin without His conviction
 - i. You've drowned out His voice – quenched the Spirit
 - ii. OR you are not Saved
 - iii. God WILL NOT tolerate sin – it must always be judged
3. The direct result of sin – I hid myself. No longer in agreement!
- a. Genesis 3:8 – “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”
 - b. Broken fellowship on display
 - i. Singles – this is true for our relationship with God
 - ii. This is true in our relationships with our parents
 - iii. And you better believe it will be true in Marriage!
 - c. No greater priority!
 - i. God first / Husband second / Father third / Pastor fourth
 - ii. Don't live outside of His fellowship!
 - iii. In the Eden, man choose HIMSELF as the center of his life
 - If a person won't give God preeminence in life
 - That person certainly will not give way to another
 - If a man won't walk with God before marriage,
 - Then he won't walk with God because of marriage!
 - d. Don't hide in darkness! Walk in the light! As HE is in the light!
 - e. Beware the TREACHERY of darkness!
4. The heart of God – They heard the voice of God. No longer in agreement!
- a. Genesis 3:9 – “And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”
 - b. Praise God! For the seeking heart of the Savior!
 - c. He DESIRES fellowship with us!
 - i. Not talking about Salvation!
 - ii. That's the unbreakable cable of Relationship
 - iii. Oh, but beware the weak thread of fellowship!
 - iv. So easy to snap that tie that binds our heart to God!
 - d. When it's broken, we better get busy fixing!

III. **BUSY FIXING**

- A. How to we repair that broken thread?
 - 1. Have you heard messages about this before? Wonder why?
 - a. Either the most LIMITING or the most ENABLING aspect of life
 - i. When those alarm bells start ringing in your heart
 - ii. What will you do next? You know what you SHOULD do

- iii. But will you?
 - b. Listen: This is the most practical thing I can give you
 - c. Preachers told me too – and I should have listened!
 - d. Don't fail and REGRET – FOLLOW and REJOICE!
 - e. (That's a hashtag that's not going to go anywhere...)
 - 2. Four things I wish I had HEARD when I was 20 years old
- B. Four Things
 - 1. Personal Devotions (Dialog with God)
 - 2. Remove Temptation (The Model Prayer)
 - 3. Besetting Sins (5 P's – pause, pray, plead, praise, re-peat)
 - 4. Run to God (Be ready to beg forgiveness – faithful and just)

IV. BUILDING FORWARD

- A. Closer to God!
 - 1. James 4:8 – “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
 - 2. We have a commandment to draw close to Him
 - a. Some people say “Get RIGHT with God”
 - b. Brother Marshall “Get right WITH God”
 - 3. And there's GOOD NEWS
 - a. Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 - b. If you want to get closer to God, there's nothing that can stop it!
 - c. No power in the Universe can prevent that REWARD!
 - 4. Will you take a step toward God today?
 - 5. The habits you form now can change your life (better or worse)
 - a. Takes little time to form a bad habit
 - b. But dedication to form a good one!
- B. Closer to One Another
 - 1. No matter how far we are apart, we WILL NATURALLY get closer
 - 2. If we walk in the light – we will have fellowship one with another
 - 3. You can never go wrong drawing nigh to God
- C. Value of Fellowship
 - 1. Your church has work – the Great Commission is our principle business!
 - 2. And churches have members
 - 3. Sweet fellowship with God means GREAT things for your church!

V. BOWING FOREVER

- A. We will fellowship together forever – let's get started here

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
 2. Did you get that? Ever! Our fellowship will never cease
 3. But did you notice that other word there? Two letters. WE.
 4. We shall ever be with the Lord.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 – “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
- C. Jude 1:3 – “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
- D. Romans 14:11 – “For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”