

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 6:14-18**.
- B. This is the second in a two-part sermon on fellowship.
- C. This morning's lesson dealt with the: principle, purpose, and potential of fellowship.
- D. Tonight's lesson is on:
 - 1. The parameters of fellowship.
 - 2. The practice of fellowship.
- E. To refresh your memory, FELLOWSHIP is defined from the Greek, "koinonia" as that which we have in common, a partnership; it is a sharing (Rom. 14:17).

I. THE PARAMETERS OF FELLOWSHIP ARE REAL.

- A. Fellowship is a choice. The goal is perfect fellowship with God and with others (1Jn. 1:3).
- B. The scripture text (2Cor. 6:14-18) shows a distinct difference in the ways of God and the world.
- C. "One cannot be a child of God w/o also being a brother to all His other children. One does not choose his brothers; he only recognizes those whom God has chosen." (Jividen, GA, 5-89, p. 16).
- D. This makes for a triangular relationship involving God, my brother (in X), and myself.
- E. FELLOWSHIP IN X IS LIMITED:
 - 1. Those who are not children of God are not in the fellowship (2Cor. 6:14,16).
 - 2. Those who have left the church by their own choice are not in the fellowship (1Jn. 2:19).
 - 3. False teachers are not to remain in the fellowship (2Th. 3:6,14; 2Jn. v9-11).
 - 4. Those who practice immorality are to be denied fellowship (1Cor. 5:5,9,11).
 - 5. Schismatics are to be cut off from the fellowship (Prov. 6:19; Ti. 3:10; Rom. 16:17).
 - 6. Those who refuse to be corrected are not to remain in the fellowship (Mt. 18:15-20).
- F. "It is sometimes necessary for some to be "cast to Satan" because of immorality and false teaching. Such does not 'unbrother' them. A child of God cannot be unborn. Casting one to Satan is a disciplinary act that outwardly marks the break in fellowship between an erring child and the heavenly Father because of sin. when fellowship is broken with God, it also must be broken by the church. (Jividen, GA, 5-89, p. 17)

II. THE PRACTICE OF FELLOWSHIP MUST BE AUTHENTIC.

- A. The early Xians were devoted to fellowship. They willingly shared their goods and possessions to those who had need (Ac. 2:42; 4:33-34).
- B. THE SCOPE OF FELLOWSHIP IS BROAD:
 - 1. Fellowship is broad enough to include all types of people. God is not limited by race, economic level, social status, cultural or educational differences (Gal. 3:28).
 - 2. Fellowship is broad enough to include different stages of maturity. Whether spiritual babes or "fathers" in the gospel, all belong in the fellowship (1Cor. 3:1-2; Heb. 5:12).
 - 3. Fellowship is broad enough to include different opinions. Using different translations is a good example. See Rom. 14:4-6.
 - 4. Fellowship is broad enough to include some doctrinal misunderstandings. Paul was tolerant with the understandings of the Corinthians, and tried to help them.
- C. Practicing fellowship fulfills:
 - 1. X's prayer for unity in Jn. 17 (Rom. 15:6; 1Cor. 1:10-13).
 - 2. The joy of spiritual companionship (Psa. 119:63; 133:1).
 - 3. And means having something very precious, that the world does not have (2Cor. 2:7).
- D. Perfect fellowship with X is seen in Gal. 2:20.
- E. Perfect fellowship with others is seen in Phil. 2:3; 1Pet. 2:17.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Fellowship means five things:
 - 1. The principle is sharing.
 - 2. The purpose is support.
 - 3. The potential is incalculable.
 - 4. The parameters are real.
 - 5. The practice must be authentic.
- B. Without becoming a Xian, there is no fellowship with God. Paul in Rom. 6 uses "into" 3 times, "in" 2 times, and "with" 5 times.
- C. One cannot say, "Jesus YES, but the church NO." Christ is the Savior of the body, He cherishes and nourishes the church (Eph. 5:25,29).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.