

# THE IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP

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Victor Hall, prepared for word ministry, 12 April 2020

Transcription of recording, slightly edited

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## Introduction

I'm going to continue and meditate on the importance of fellowship.

I pray that the Lord will grant every one of us a very clear illumination as I'm speaking. And then, as we eat and drink the communion elements together, I pray that you will be blessed, and will really appreciate what is happening.

Also, as you eat and drink from house to house - the communion fellowship - I pray that this will be life to you as you fellowship together in an understanding of the word.

So, if I were to head up this statement today, it will be 'The importance of fellowship'.

## The communion meal is declaring eternal life

My very first point is actually the endpoint, in a way.

The ministry of a communion meal is an essential service that is necessary to the life and wellbeing of Christians within the community.

So, we could ask the question, 'Why is this so?'

The apostle John wrote to us in His epistles and declared to us what he called 'that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us'. 1Jn 1:2.

It is amazing that he began his epistle by writing, 'We are *declaring* to you that eternal life that was with the Father and was manifested to us.' He was *declaring* that!

That's what we are doing also today; we are *declaring* that eternal life.

## Eternal life is only in the fellowship of the Father and His Son

He then noted, 'That which we have seen and heard, we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us [by the word 'also', he meant that *you also* may have a testimony of eternal life in *your* mouth]; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.'

The Father has sent His word to us in Christ. The content of this message is that God has invited us to come to Him and to be *joined to the fellowship of the Father and the Son*.

*In Their fellowship, and only in fellowship with Them, do we have everlasting life.*

So, our faith today is that we are also joined, with John, to the fellowship of the Father and the Son.

And we, also, are proclaiming to you the word of present truth that is calling us to come and to be joined together with the Father and Son and Holy Spirit in the fellowship of a communion meal.

So, that is God's word for us today. We are calling you to that fellowship, and to that understanding.

## The fellowship of a communion meal

So, when does *the word of present truth become real to you?* This is a very important point.

It becomes real *when you connect to it in fellowship*. Thus, we see the importance of the communion meal.

## The fellowship of Christ's offering and forgiveness

Jesus said, 'All things have been delivered to Me by My Father; and no-one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

'Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle [or meek] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.' Mat 11:27-30.

## Yoked to Christ<sup>1</sup>

We will now consider the notes, 'The fellowship of Christ's offering and forgiveness', page 1.

'Connection to Christ is always through communion. It is not a discipleship connection to the presbytery through a minister. I think it is important to get that point. It is a fellowship connection through a communion- worship expression with those whom Christ sends from house to house. When these firstfruits brethren bring communion to our houses, they are bringing the dimension of peace to a house of peace. Jesus

<sup>1</sup> Victor Hall, 'The fellowship of Christ's offering and forgiveness', 12 April 2020, page 1

instructed the seventy in this way when He sent them out before Him, saying, 'Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house." And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.' Luk 10:5-6.

'Regarding our connection to the fellowship of Christ, the apostle John wrote, 'That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ'. 1Jn 1:3. The coming of firstfruits brethren to our houses is not an expression of a 'pyramid structure'. This is not what John was establishing. Rather, it is an 'in the Spirit' dimension that belongs to *the yoke of Christ*. We are yoked to Christ through the communion fellowship. That's a very important point. We are yoked to Christ through the communion fellowship. When we are yoked to Christ, we find rest for our souls. Mat 11:29. This is what we are learning in this present season.

'The brethren who are bringing communion to our houses are not bringing a hierarchy; they are bringing a *fellowship*. However, the brethren who bring the communion must be connected to the hand of Christ as firstfruits Christians who belong to, and are following, the Lamb.

'To learn of Christ, we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. This we do when we fellowship and abide in Him and He abides in us. Joh 6:56. This is what it means to 'take Christ's yoke upon us'. Mat 11:29.

'Christ Himself was yoked to the will of the Father. He took the Father's yoke – He was yoked to the will of the Father. He spoke of His redeeming death on the cross as a baptism that He must undergo. Luk 12:50. He then spoke of being straitened, or yoked, to this outcome. To be 'straitened' means 'to hold together with'.

I'll say that again: to be 'straitened' means 'to hold together with'.

'Christ was constrained to the will of the Father and enabled to accomplish our death through the power of Eternal Spirit. Heb 9:14. Christ, through His baptism, made our death, His death. Our sufferings are now His sufferings, and are part of His redeeming work that is delivering us from our sin.'

## **He made our death to be His death; our sufferings are His sufferings**

I commend these notes to you as you continue to meditate on them later today and further in the week.

But, remember that Christ, through His baptism *made our death to be His death*.

Our sufferings, now, are *His* sufferings, and are part of His redeeming work that is delivering us from our sin.

May the Lord bless this meditation to you.