

**The goal and privilege of every single believer in Jesus Christ should be to live life in fellowship with God.** That is the kind of life that pleases God, honors God and will one day leave one unashamed before God.

When God first created Adam, He walked in the garden with Adam and talked to Adam as a close personal friend (Gen. 3:8-10). Adam had daily unbroken fellowship communion with God, who was his creator, Father and friend. Think of that. Here was Almighty God, Himself, walking and talking and fellowshiping with a finite man.

Well you know the story, Adam sinned and it ruined the relationship with God. He lost the privilege of having that great fellowship and friendship with God. But then thousands of years later a second Adam showed up who, as Spurgeon said, “came into the world to restore to us our lost patrimony” (*Fellowship with God*, p. 1).

Jesus Christ came into this world to restore sinful people into full fellowship with God. Paul said through Jesus Christ “you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints of God’s household” (Eph. 2:19).

One of the men who had close fellowship and friendship with Jesus Christ was the Apostle John. He was one of the three closest disciples of Jesus Christ along with Peter and James. Of the three, John was closest to Christ. He literally walked with Him and talked with Him and had the closest possible relationship that any could have.

John wrote in **I John 1:3** that it was possible to once again have close fellowship and friendship with God. Think of it. It is possible once again to have intimate fellowship with God. The thing the first Adam lost is the very thing the second Adam restores.

It is now possible for every single believer to have a life of full fellowship with God. This is an amazing possibility and it should be the goal and objective of every believer.

**QUESTION #1** – What do we mean by having fellowship with God?

The actual concept of having fellowship with God comes from many passages, which we will examine. One of the key books of the Bible that teaches on this very theme is I John and it is there where we actually learn of the potential to have fellowship with God.

In **I John 1:3** we learn that it is possible for a believer to actually have fellowship with God: “what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

Now the word “fellowship” is the word “koinonia” (koinwnia). The stress of this word is communion, companionship, partnership, intimate actual sharing in a relationship (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 251). The word presents the idea of actual participation in a relationship.

In secular Greek, this word was used in conjunction with a close life partnership. It was used for business partnership and marriage partnership (Gerhard Kittel, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. 3, p. 709).

When we track this word and its various forms (kononia; koinokos; koinonos; koinoneo) through the New Testament, we certainly see this is an accurate conclusion from God's written word. Based on Moulton and Geden, *Concordance to the Greek New Testament*, pp. 552-553, there are 38 uses of this word:

- 1) Matt. 23:30 - contextual meaning is partnership.
- 2) Luke 5:10 - contextual meaning is partnership.
- 3) Acts 2:42 - contextual meaning is united communion.
- 4) Romans 12:13 - contextual meaning is sharing contribution.
- 5) Romans 15:26 - contextual meaning is sharing contribution.
- 6) Romans 15:27 - contextual meaning is sharing spiritual communion.
- 7) I Corinthians 1:9 - contextual meaning is union.
- 8) I Corinthians 10:16 - contextual meaning is union.
- 9) I Corinthians 10:16 - contextual meaning is union.
- 10) I Corinthians 10:18 - contextual meaning is united sharing.
- 11) I Corinthians 10:20 - contextual meaning is united sharing.
- 12) II Corinthians 1:7 - contextual meaning is shared partnership.
- 13) II Corinthians 6:14 - contextual meaning is united partnership.
- 14) II Corinthians 8:4 - contextual meaning is sharing.
- 15) II Corinthians 8:23 - contextual meaning is intimate partnership.
- 16) II Corinthians 9:13 - contextual meaning is united sharing.
- 17) II Corinthians 13:14 - contextual meaning is union relationship.
- 18) Galatians 2:9 - contextual meaning is union agreement and partnership.
- 19) Galatians 6:6 - contextual meaning is sharing.
- 20) Philippians 1:5 - contextual meaning is shared partnership and participation.
- 21) Philippians 2:1 - contextual meaning is communion relationship.
- 22) Philippians 3:10 - contextual meaning is shared personal intimacy.
- 23) Philippians 4:15 - contextual meaning is partnership sharing.
- 24) I Timothy 5:22 - contextual meaning is union participation.
- 25) I Timothy 6:18 - contextual meaning is partnership sharing.
- 26) Philemon 6 - contextual meaning shared relationship.
- 27) Philemon 17 - contextual meaning is partnership.
- 28) Hebrews 2:14 - contextual meaning is actual sharing.
- 29) Hebrews 10:33 - contextual meaning is sharing participation.
- 30) Hebrews 13:16 - contextual meaning is sharing.
- 31) I Peter 4:13 - contextual meaning is actual sharing.
- 32) I Peter 5:1 - contextual meaning is actual united partnership.
- 33) II Peter 1:4 - contextual meaning is actual union and intimate relationship.
- 34) I John 1:3 - contextual meaning is actual union and intimate relationship.
- 35) I John 1:3 - contextual meaning is actual union and intimate relationship.
- 36) I John 1:6 - contextual meaning is actual relationship.
- 37) I John 1:7 - contextual meaning is actual union relationship.

38) II John 11 - contextual meaning is actual participation.

Based on an analysis of the word, we conclude that when the Bible speaks of fellowship, it presents the idea of having a united relationship with someone that is actually and really linked so that there is an actual sharing and partnership and communion and intimate contributive participation.

Now the staggering thought here is that it is possible to have this kind of relationship with God.

We would define fellowship with God this way. **Fellowship with God means to live life and walk through life in an intimate, united, harmonious relationship with God that is so close, and so personal and agreeable that we actually have communion, companionship and partnership with God at all times.**

In Amos 3:3 we read that two men cannot walk together unless they walk in agreement. That at its basic core is what fellowship with God is; **it means to walk through life in partnership agreement with God and His word. One who walks with God in conformity to His word has fellowship.**

**QUESTION #2** – Who actually do we need to have fellowship with to have fellowship with God?

**In order to have fellowship with God, we need to have fellowship with the entire Holy, Holy, Holy Trinity.**

In other words, to have fellowship with God means to have fellowship with all three members of the entire Godhead.

It is impossible to have fellowship with God unless we have fellowship with every member of the Godhead, and there are different dimensions to fellowship with each member. The dynamics of the relationship with the Trinity has its own unique features.

The potential to have fellowship with the entire Trinity is clearly promoted in the New Testament:

**Trinity Member #1** - We must have fellowship with God the Father. **I John 1:3**

**Trinity Member #2** - We must have fellowship with God the Son. **I Cor.1:9**

**Trinity Member #3** - We must have fellowship with God the Spirit. **II Cor.13:14**

So when we speak of having fellowship with God, we are speaking of having this very intimate relationship with all three members of the Godhead.

**QUESTION #3** – What are the different dimensions to fellowship with the Trinity?

There are three dimensions to having fellowship with God:

**Dimension #1** - One must have fellowship with God the Father. **I John 1:3**

**The specific point of having fellowship with God the Father is that of Sonship.** Everything in our relationship and potential fellowship with God the Father hinges on this point. All fellowship that we have with God the Father primarily has to do with us being His children.

**No one can have any fellowship with God the Father if he/she is not in the family.** Now getting into the family comes by being born again (John 3:3).

To have fellowship with God the Father, one must be in God's family and to get into God's family one must believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as Savior (John 1:12). One must be "in Christ" to have fellowship with God.

**In all reality, getting into God's family and becoming one of God's children comes via election and adoption.**

As far as election is concerned, Jesus Himself said that any who come to faith in Him have been given to Him by the Father (John 6:37-39). Jesus Christ is God the Father's love gift to the world and those who believe on Jesus Christ are God the Father's love gift to the Son.

As far as adoption is concerned, we learn from Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5-7 and Ephesians 1: 5 that we are given a full sonship status by Divine adoption to the point that we become a legal son and an heir of the riches of being in the family of God.

**So our conclusion is that fellowship with the Father is based on our sonship.**

**Dimension #2** - One must have fellowship with God the Son. **I Cor. 1:9**

**Our fellowship with God the Son is not so much one of sonship as it is with the Father. Our fellowship with the Son primarily has to do with us being His servants and friends (John 15:14; I Cor. 7:22).**

One key word connected to being a friend of Jesus Christ is obedience to Him - John 15:14-15; I John 2:4-5). Friends of Jesus Christ want to obey Him.

As far as being a servant of Christ, it is not a major burdensome relationship. It is a calling that guarantees we will be enriched in everything (I Cor. 1:5-9).

Being a friend of Jesus Christ is the best friendship one can ever cultivate. The Apostle Paul was after such an intimate friendship and relationship with Jesus Christ that was so close that he actually wanted to share everything with and everything about Christ - Philippians 3:7-10.