

Fellowship with the Father and His Son

1 John 1:1-3

Introduction:

- A. The meaning of “fellowship.”
 - 1. English word suggests a condition of being “fellows” by two or more.
 - 2. Vines and Thayer say it is a sharing or partnership.
 - 3. Other translations of the original words (*koinonia*, *koinonos*) for fellowship.
 - a. Communion (1 Cor. 10:16; 2 Cor. 6:14; 13:14).
 - b. “Communication” (Phile. 6; Heb. 13:16; cf. Phil. 4:15).
 - c. “Partaker” “companion” “Partners” (Luke 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 10:20)
- B. Modern efforts at fellowship of communion with God.
 - 1. Mysticism.
 - 2. Meditations.
 - 3. Pleas for direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Difference in feeling close to the Lord and being close to Him.
- D. John tells us about three essentials for real fellowship with the Father and His Son.

Discussion

I. Testimony.

- A. Two kinds of faith – one from experience and other from testimony.
 - 1. Witnesses believe from experience (vv. 1-3).
 - a. A select few were eye witnesses (Acts 9:3-4; John 20:24-29; 2 Pet. 1:16)
 - b. Another select few received direct revelations and spiritual gifts (cf. 1 Cor 14:30, 31).
 - 2. The rest believe from testimony (v. 3; cf. Rom. 10:6-17; cf. John 20:29)
 - a. Written testimony of eyewitnesses (John 20:30-31)
 - b. Written testimony of personal revelations (Eph 3:3-5).
- B. Our fellowship based on faith in testimony (vv. 3, 4)
 - 1. Not personal immediate communion (cf. 2 Cor. 5:6,8)
 - 2. But, in a fellowship through Bible based faith.

II. Forgiveness.

- A. Fellowship does not depend on *reaching* sinless perfection (vv. 8, 10).
- B. Fellowship depends on *reaching for* sinless perfection (v. 7; 2:1, 4).
- C. Fellowship depends on confessing our sins (v. 9).

III. Obedience.

- A. Must do the truth (v. 6)
- B. Must walk in light (vv. 6, 7).
- C. Must obey commands (2:4).
- D. Must keep word (2:5, 6).

Conclusion:

- A. “Hereby know we that we are in him” – not by feelings, personal experiences, etc.
- B. We become children of the Father when are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27)