

WDM: The Fellowship
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Acts 2:41-47, 1John 1:1-10

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also 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.
(1John 1:1-3, ESV)

Introduction

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the fellowship” is a phrase more indicative of a lifestyle leading to the receipt and display of grace and truth in our words, works and relationships than we might have believed. Authentic spiritual community fosters not head knowledge, but a living, breathing faith through devotional practices that develop both an inward and outward flow of the Holy Spirit. Just as the grace and truth of God flows into our hearts through the Word and Spirit of God, so that grace and truth must be allowed to flow out of our words, works and relationships in community for the transformative work of God to have its fullest effect.

1. The nature of fellowship. (1John 1:1-4)

a) Fellowship is about sharing the life of God.

b) Fellowship describes a relationship simultaneously human and divine in nature.

2. Fellowship describes vital relationship with God and man. (1John 1:5-7)

a) Fellowship is experienced and expressed with our whole body, soul and spirit.

b) Authentic fellowship requires that we abide in the grace and truth of Christ.

3. Fellowship occurs on God’s terms and not our terms. (1John 1:8-10)

a) Authentic fellowship is a human and divine shared expression of righteousness.

b) Fellowship is kept through confession of sin and Christ’s power, love and faithfulness.

Conclusion

This first pair of faith practices—*devotion to the teaching of the apostles and the fellowship*—help us receive and agree with the grace and truth of God and grow in our own resemblance and representation of Christ. While sinless perfection is not required from us for fellowship, the confession of our sin and submission to Christ is essential to it.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

1. Why do you think John writes of the life of Christ and uses "fellowship" four times here?
2. Read and compare 1John1:1-10 with 1Corinthians 6:9-20 and 2Corinthians 6:14-18. What do you learn about fellowship from these passages?
3. What did the Holy Spirit remind you of or teach you anew through today’s message?

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