

Sunday, November 2, 2025

FELLOWSHIP SERIES: "OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN CHRIST"

1st SUNDAY: *OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON*

On ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

1 John 1:1-7

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Have you ever walked into a crowded room where everyone's hunched over their phones?

They're together—but not really together.

Have you ever been surrounded by people, yet felt all alone?

Or sat by yourself, feeling lonely—but it's just too much to go out?

So you turn on the TV or a game, because it's easier.

And maybe, just for a little while, you might manage to almost distract yourself from the emptiness?

Loneliness is a terrible thing.

The book version of *The Princess Bride* describes the giant Fezzik's picture of hell.

It is being alone.

Later, it grows worse: being forever alone while crowds boo him.

That's the human condition, isn't it?

We were made for fellowship—for relationship.

We long to be known, to be loved, to belong.

But when we try, we get hurt.

We need people, but people wound us.

And so our world of eight billion souls is filled with lonely hearts.

Each one is craving connection, yet building walls for protection.

Surrounded by people, we're still alone.

So what's to be done?

Is fellowship possible?

What does true fellowship even look like?

1.

My friends, we often settle for surface-level connections.

We keep things light.

We keep our distance.

We ask, "How are you?"

And the automatic answer comes: "I'm fine. I'm good."

But what's behind those words?

A weary heart.

A week that wasn't fine at all.

Someone who needs help.

Who needs a hug.

Who needs you to pray with them.

But instead, they say, "I'm doing well."

Why do we hide from each other?

Genesis gives the answer:

"But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.'"
(Genesis 3:9–12.)

We hide because of sin.

Sin is not just breaking rules—it's breaking relationships.

Sin is the way we mistreat each other.

It makes us unsafe to one another.

Before sin, Adam and Eve had perfect fellowship.

They knew God.

They knew each other.

God had personally fashioned them and breathed life into them.

They were flesh and bone of each other.

There was no shame, no fear, no hiding, only the security of love and trust.

Then they sinned.

And for the first time, shame came.

Fear entered the heart.

Lies and blame followed.

To be open was now to be vulnerable to hurt.

Sin shattered fellowship.

It made them dead to God.

It turned husband and wife into strangers and foes.

When we sin, we grieve God's heart.

We wound one another.

We wrong one another.

We pull away.

Where sin remains, fellowship dies.

Sin isolates.

Sin divides.

Sin drives us into darkness.

Sin kills.

And none of us is immune.

Scripture says:

"Who can say, 'I have made my heart pure; I am clean and without sin'?"

(Proverbs 20:9)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"And we all stumble in many ways." (James 3:2)

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." (1 John 1:8)

We all hide.

We all hurt.

And without God's light, we remain alone in the dark.

But God has given us His light.

My friends, "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*" (Isaiah 9:2).

Sin is what divides us.

Sin is what isolates us from God and one another.

Sin causes our 'fellowship' to be shallow, selective, or non-existent.

But Christ deals with sin.

"Christ the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Christ deals with sin.

He washes us clean from all sin.

The sin we commit, He washes away.

The sins others commit against us, He washes away.

The sin that separates us from God and one another, He washes away.

Through Christ, the Word of life made flesh, God draws us into fellowship with Himself.

Through Christ, God gives us communion with Himself and one another.

The disciples had fellowship with God.

The Word of life they proclaimed was more than ideas.

They heard Him.

They saw Him with their eyes.

They touched Him with their hands.

Jesus is the Word of life they proclaim to us.

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete." (1 John 1:3–4).

This is true fellowship.

Fellowship is deep, joyful relationship with God and Jesus.

Fellowship with God and Jesus that draws others into the relationship.

It's a fellowship whose joy is only complete when you are welcomed in and included by the Word of life.

True fellowship only exists when God is in the centre.

"Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

This is because true fellowship is only made possible and sustained by forgiveness.

True fellowship only exists in the light of confession.

*"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, **purifies us from all sin**. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:7–9.)

Christ's blood cleanses us and unites us to each other.

We are afraid of being hurt.

But Christ heals our hurts.

Sometimes, when we are sinned against, we are left feeling soiled.

Slighted.

Ashamed.

Dishonoured.

Damaged.

Used.

Broken.

But the blood of Jesus purifies us of **all** sin.

Even the sin of others.

Christ's blood deals with my sin. And your sin. And his sin. And her sin.

He washes it away in forgiveness.

He heals the pain with His love.

"By His wounds we are healed."

The presence of the Forgiving God makes true fellowship possible.

His love makes us safe in openness.

His love makes us free to be vulnerable.

His love makes us free to be real.

His love makes us free to walk in the light of confession with one another.

He reconciles us together in Himself.

And walking in that light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us of all sin, and we have fellowship with one another.

3.

My friends, fellowship has been given to us by Christ.

We walk in the light of His Word together.

We are united to Him.

He is the vine, and we are the branches.

We abide in Him, and He abides in us.

You are clean because of the Word Christ speaks to you.

United to Jesus, we are united to each other.

We are one plant.

We are one body.

Everyone who is united to Jesus is united to one another.

We are knit together with everyone who is in Christ.

All the saints, of all time, are together in Jesus.

Fellowship means being together.

Fellowship means being together with God.

Fellowship means keeping Christ's Word together.

Fellowship means sharing joys together as God's family.

Fellowship means sharing burdens together as God's family.

Fellowship means walking in confession and forgiveness together.

Fellowship is being real, open, and present with one another and our God.

When we walk in His light, we experience true community.

Fellowship is what it means to be a Christian.

No Christian is alone.

You are united to Christ's body.

You are united to the great cloud of witnesses.

You are united to the saints singing around the throne in heavenly glory.

You are united to the saints in the pews around this altar.

You are united to the saints throughout the world.

Our fellowship with God is experienced together.

Our joy is not complete until we are abiding in Christ together.

Joy is not complete until you have fellowship.

And our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

*

My dear friends, fellowship is not optional.

Fellowship is the gift of being drawn into God's own life.

And God's life is lived in community.

God's life is lived in family.

"And indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3)

Being redeemed from sin and death means being restored into community.

You cannot keep Christ's Word and remain isolated.

Christ's Word brings you into the life of God's family.

Can being open, real, and present with one another result in pain or trouble?

Yes.

But:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." (Psalm 46:1–2)

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

Will being open, real, and present with one another result in joy?

Yes.

So step into the light.

Step into God's family.

Step into deeper fellowship.

You are **not** alone.

And all the saints are cheering.

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!...For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore." (Psalm 133:1,3)

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.