



# Christian Fellowship

**“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (I John 1:3).**

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**“And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (I John 1:4)**

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (I John 1:1-4).

The word fellowship means different things to different people. To some, it means nothing more than attendance at a church or church group meeting. The irony of it all is that people can attend many such programmes regularly, without having fellowship with one another.

The word fellowship is translated from the Greek word κοινωνία - Koinonia, which is explained in the online Wikipedia as meaning “... communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, etc. It identifies the idealized state of fellowship and unity that should exist within the Christian church, the Body of Christ”.

This implies that fellowship means much more than mere attendance at church events. It can take place at individual levels with two or more Christians, whether in church setting or outside of it. Our text reveals the heart desire of the author for all Christians to practically experience such fellowship, not only with one another but also with God and Jesus.

Our text reveals that the basis of such fellowship is the sharing of personal intimate experiences (with all the associated emotions, feelings, substance, etc.) with others to such a point that they become transmitted to such people and they become partakers of such experiences at practical

levels, and in holiness.

The apostle John revealed that the experience stemmed from that:

- 1) which was from the beginning (i.e. authentic source)
- 2) Which we have seen with our eyes (i.e. not hearsay, but a personal witness)
- 3) Which our hands have handled (i.e. genuine experience)
- 4) Of the word of life (i.e. a substantive / genuine product of eternal life that originated from the Father, and became manifested to them).

Our experience of God and of the life of God must be rock solid and cover all facets before we can effectively share it in a manner that transmit the same experience to others and make them equally partakers.

The process of fellowship is encapsulated in the apostle's statement in verse 3 “...That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us ....”. It involves “declaration” using all available means till everything is transmitted to create shared experience. Such process may take time, thought, energy, resources and all of the communication skills necessary (including practical demonstrations). These cannot take place in isolation but requires interactions between the parties concerned to ensure effective transmission.

When successfully carried out, the products of fellowship include:

- 1) Fellowship with the immediate parties involved.
- 2) Fellowship with the Godhead
- 3) Fullness of Joy.

May God help us have true fellowship with all