

KOINONIA

1 John 1:1-7 1 John 2 - 5 1 Corinthians 13

Introduction: People come together for various reasons and often very strong fellowships develop and it is sometimes said that they "bonded," they became like "one." That "bonding" is a term used to describe a very close oneness with similarities in things liked, disliked, viewpoints, situations in life and numberless other areas. Marriage is a "joining together" of two people to share the rest of their lives together according to God's plans and are "bonded," becoming as "one."

God uses another word for people coming together as He wants and it is "koinonia." A greek word meaning "fellowship," sharing with someone, partnership, a giving and receiving, a kind of "bonding."

How exactly does God want His children to "fellowship?"

I. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM (1 John 1:1-7)

1. God started fellowship in the Garden of Eden with the first couple.
2. God's Son, Jesus, had fellowship with those of His day.
 - Jesus was born, lived, hungered, thirsted, hurt, had friends, enemies, emotions.
 - All that people experienced, Jesus experienced, birth to death.
3. God shared His Divinity with the human race by offering to share:
 - eternal life, unlimited power, the Holy Spirit, Holiness, righteousness, rulership, heavenly home, His name, and countless other blessings.
4. However fellowship with God is possible ONLY on God's terms.

II. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER (1 John 2-5)

1. Believers are to share, fellowship in their Christian life together given by Jesus.
 - No christian is more important or less important than another in God's eyes.
 - No christian is more deserving or less deserving than another in God's eyes.
 - All that any christian has from God is totally given by God by His grace.
 - All christians are joint participants in whatever God chooses to share.
2. Believers are to share with one another.
 - Believers are to share their spiritual gifts given freely by the Holy Spirit.
 - Beleivers are to share their earthly goods, money, things, time, whatever God gives.

III. GOD GIVES A TEST OF HIS CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP AND THAT IS LOVE

1. There is no fellowship with God (says God) if there is no love (God's kind) for his/her co-believers. God simply will not fellowship where there is not His kind of love.

2. God's children often have said, "I'm a christian, I love God, but I just can't stand to be around so and so..." "I just can't forgive him/her/them for what was done or said."
3. No doubt a child of God is going to have problems sooner or later in trying to forgive after being hurt by another christian. Does that mean he/she doesn't really love God?
 - 1 Corinthians 13 is God's answer to that situation. Every christian needs to try to live by it.
4. God says "...if you really love Me and your christian brothers and sisters as I want you to:
 - then you will be patient and kind.
 - then you will not be envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, or easily angered.
 - then you will not hold grudges.
 - then you will rejoice in truth and right, not in evil.
 - then you will protect and trust your christian brothers and sisters.
 - then you will hope the best for your christian brothers and sisters, and you will keep on perservering in your love.

CONCLUSION:

1. A child of God is badly mistaken if he/she thinks that there can continue to be fellowship with God when fellowship with another child of God is broken and is not taking steps to right things.
2. God cannot fellowship, there will be no fellowship with any of His children who are out of fellowship with one another.
3. In God's eyes there is no possible excuse for such behavior. Considering what God has done to enable His children to have eternal live, to share in heavenly things, there can be no situation on earth that is reason to cause one christian to not love his/her brother or sister in the Lord.
4. Broken fellowships happen among God's children. What is to be done? God says to go to that brother or sister, make things right, then come to Him in repentance.
5. If that brother or sister refuses to make things right, then God says that is open disobedience and a deliberate refusal to obey His commandments and there cannot be fellowship any longer.
6. It is God's command that His children love (His kind of love) one another, no matter what. If one would walk with God in fellowship, sharing all that God wants to offer, then there must be love for that christian brother and sister, no matter what.
7. Just what kind of love does God have? (Agapa) A "one way, unconditional" love. The highest form of love a christian can have .