

Doctrine of Spiritual Fellowship

1. The early community of disciples found spiritual fellowship around doctrine, closeness, communion, and prayer.
 - *Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
2. Every believer has the privilege of fellowship with Jesus Christ.
 - *1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*
3. The believer is commanded to break fellowship with an individual who is involved with the occult or practices evil continually.
 - *1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*
4. Christians are never to knowingly enter into fellowship with unbelievers.
 - *2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?*
5. Ministering to the saints is an expression of the spiritual *koinonia* (fellowship).
 - *2 Corinthians 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*
6. Christian fellowship is expressed in part by extending a hug and/or a hand of love and grace to others.
 - *Galatians 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*
7. The gospel of Jesus Christ is designed to unite souls.
 - *Philippians 1:5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;*
8. The fellowship of the local community is rooted in a common enjoyment or partnership with the Holy Spirit.
 - *Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,*

9. Physical, mental, and emotional suffering enables the believer to identify with the person and work of Christ.

- *Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

10. Communication of gospel truth draws people into apostolic fellowship.

- *1 John 1:3 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.*

11. One clear manifestation of fellowship with the Father is to walk in the light.

- *1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

12. In as far as believers walk in truth and in the light the basis for true fellowship exists and the forum is found for cleansing and forgiveness of sins.

- *1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

13. There are four facets of spiritual fellowship.

- We can meet with the Lord daily. *1 John 1:3 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.*
- We can commune with Christ intimately. *Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*
- We can participate in the Lord's purpose. *Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*
- We can become partners with the Lord. *Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*