

“Thy Kingdom Come”
Lesson 9 - The fellowship of the kingdom
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Introduction: Our relationship to the King must be maintained.

- A. The basic meaning of being in the kingdom is that we have a relationship with the King.
 - 1. He is our Lord ruling within our lives. **(Lk 6:46; 17:20-21)**
 - 2. We need to know however that this relationship must be maintained.
 - 3. In a study of fellowship we are learning in truth how to maintain holiness.
- B. Our kingdom is a kingdom of light in contrast with Satan’s kingdom of darkness. **(Col 1:13-14)**
 - 1. As a result we are pursuing holiness as we walk in the light and continually find God’s forgiveness. **(1 Jn 1:5-9)**
 - 2. We face a danger in accepting a path that leads us to darkness!

I. We are to walk with the King.

- A. What is fellowship? συγκαοινωνέω α AV - have fellowship with 1, communicate with 1, be partaker of 1; 3 α 1) to become a partaker together with others, or to have fellowship with a thing .
 - 1. The root idea is communion, fellowship, sharing in common.
 - 2. Fellowship always has an object!
- B. We have our primary concern in sharing the life that comes from God. **(1 Jn 1:1-3)**
 - 1. God dwells in us as Christians. **(Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 6:19-20)**
 - 2. Any other fellowship or sharing that disrupts this fellowship must be avoided.
- C. Because we have fellowship with the King we now will have fellowship with the citizens of the kingdom.
 - 1. We belong to a “fellowship” or “brotherhood” to all that have this life. **(Heb 12:22-24, 28-29)**
 - a. We may never have met these people!
 - b. We may never have done anything with these people! We do have the life of God in common.
 - c. We also share in other things together in this “one body” relationship. **(1 Cor 10:16-17)**
 - 2. We also have a “fellowship” in a local church. **(1 Cor 12:23-27)**
 - 3. In both the local church and with individuals we meet we must determine if one has this relationship with God before we can extend to them the special relationship and work that we share in as Christians. **(2 Cor 6:14; Gal 2:9)**

II. The King expects us to discern the paths we walk in.

- A. Before we extend the fellowship of the King we must make a judgment as to whether they also are citizens.

1. We need to ask: "Is this one a Christian?" (**Acts 9:26**)
2. We also need to ask: "Is this one a faithful Christian?" (**1 John 3:4-10; Eph 5:5-11**)
3. There are limits to this kind of judgment. We are not trying to take God's place! (**1 Cor 4:2-4**)
- B. We can be wrong in our judgment.
 1. The Christians at Jerusalem were wrong at first about Paul. (**Acts 9:26**)
 - a. They did discover their error and correct it! (**Acts 9:27-28**)
 - b. We must never let the fear of: "We could be wrong", keep us from doing what the Lord demands!
 2. The church at Corinth refused, at first, to withdraw from one practicing sin. (**1 Cor 5:1-3**)

III. The King expects us to maintain holiness.

- A. We can listen to and support men that we should reject! (**2 Cor 11:2-4**)
 1. How would you like to "share" your mate with another?
 2. The nation of Israel heard their adultery described. (**Jer 3:6-10**)
- B. We can practice that which establishes a relationship with Satan and sin. (**2 Cor 6:14-18**)
 1. Some Christians tried to rationalize their participation with feasts in the Idol's temple.
 2. God simply stated that it was a relationship with Him or Satan!
 3. We need to listen carefully to the subject of fellowship.
- C. How do we extend fellowship?
 1. By recognizing and greeting one as a faithful brother. (**2 John 9-11; Gal 2:9**)
 2. By supporting one in their teaching. (**3 John 5-8**)
 3. By helping together in a work. (**Col 4:11**)
 4. By associating with one because they are right with God. (**1 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Thess 3:14-15**)

IV. Fellowship is based upon the King's word.

- A. The New Testament is our standard. (**2 Thess 3:6, 14; Rom 16:17; 1 Jn 4:6**)
- B. Some have asked: "What is the doctrine of Christ?" (**2 John 9**)
 1. The doctrine of Christ is what Christ taught. (**John 12:48; Rev 2:14**)
 2. Many try to water down the standard. What do we accomplish if we succeed in convincing ourselves and others to do this?

Conclusion: Do you view your relationship with Christ like a marriage?

- A. When we understand the care that we have in our earthly relationships so that we can have a good marriage, then we can understand why we are careful in our relationship with the Lord. (**Rev 12:10-11**)
- B. Do we rejoice in the good things and good people we share in as a result of being in the kingdom?

Questions for Lesson 9
The fellowship of the kingdom

1. What does “walking in the light” mean? (**1 Jn 1:5-9**)
2. What does the word ‘fellowship’ mean?
3. What is our main desire when we consider the kinds of fellowship?
4. What people do we have fellowship with in the kingdom of God? (**Heb 12:22-29**)
5. What things do we share in with every other Christian on earth?
6. Before we can extend fellowship to another as a citizen of the kingdom, what must we know?
7. What does fellowship and holiness have in common? (2 Cor 11:2-4)
8. Name things that we must “have fellowship in” as a Christian? Are these a burden or a privilege?
9. Should we encourage the lost to give on the first day of the week?
10. What happens to us when we support the man that we know is teaching another gospel? (**2 Jn 9-11**)