# **Understanding Relationship and Fellowship**

#### 1 John 1:5-10

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

#### John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to *pluck* them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

**KJV** 

NT:726

*harpazo* (har-pad'-zo); from a derivative of NT:138; to sieze (in various applications): KJV - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

# I. Relationship vs Fellowship

# A. Relationship can't be broken- only by God Himself

- 1. Relationship came because you are "in Christ"
- 2. A child of God

## B. Fellowship is broken by sin

- 1. Sin breaks fellowship
- 2. It is your spirit that fellowships the riches of His Presence. Your spirit, with God's nature in it, can fellowship with God on terms of absolute right standing.

#### John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the *true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;* for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV

The gravest danger of the believer is the possibility of his lapsing back into bondage after he has been made free. He leaves the Realm of the Spirit and Faith, and walks in the realm of the senses. As sense reason gains the supremacy he loses his joy in the Lord."

E.W. Kenyon page 119 Two kinds of Life

# II. I am the Vine, you are the Branches

John 15:1-13

- "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
- 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
- 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
- 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.
- $12\ \mathrm{This}$  is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  $\mathrm{NKJV}$

NT:142 To take away or take up

*airo* (ah'-ee-ro); a primary root; to lift up; by implication, to take up or away; figuratively, to raise by Hebraism [compare OT:5375] to expiate sin:

NT:2508 to prune

*kathairo* (kath-ah'-ee-ro); from NT:2513; to cleanse, i.e. (specially) to prune; figuratively, to expiate:

## A. Abiding in the vine-Life is in the vine

- 1. Bearing fruit inward to bring forth fruit outward
- 2. Care of the Vinedresser
  - a) No fruit
  - b) Fruit
  - c) More fruit
  - d) Much fruit
- 3. Take up- Lift up the branch

It is the tendency of the branch to grow downward. The effect of which causes the branch to lie on the ground where it becomes soiled and sickly.

- a) The Father lifts and cleanses the branch
  - (1) By the Word
  - (2) By His Spirit

Eph 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. NKJV

#### John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. NKJV

# b) Prunes away unwanted growth

The branches tend to grow vigorously; the result is they become woody and so dense that the light cannot reach the area where the fruit should form and grow.

- (1) God deals with the Sin that impedes growth
- (2) God deals with the weights that hold us back

#### Heb 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, *let us lay* aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,* who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV

## (3) God deals with the priorities of our life

## B. Pruning produces

- 1. removes dead growth
- 2. make sure sunlight can get to the fruit bearing branches
- 3. increase size and quality of the fruit
- 4. encourage new fruit to develop

# III. Abiding in Him, means abiding in love

# You cannot separate abiding in Him from the law of Love

#### 1 John 4:12-16

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

- 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
- 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. NKJV

# A. Stepping outside the law of love is sin and breaks fellowship

# B. The test of Abiding in Him

#### 1. JOY

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:4 "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full".

## 2. In His Presence is Fullness of Joy

#### Ps 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore  $\kappa_{\rm JV}$ 

## C. God inside minded

- 1. Conscience of His Indwelling Presence
- 2. Not just Infilling but Indwelling

## Col 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. NKJV