**R805 – Rumination for July 05, 2020**  by K.C.Ung

The **T**heme: **Fellowship** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *Ye also may have* ***fellowship*** *with us: and truly our* ***fellowship*** *is with the Father,*

 *and with His Son Jesus Christ* I Jn.1:3

The **T**hots:

1. **The Fact of the *Fellowship*.**
2. ***K****oinōnia* (Gk.) is from *koinonos =* **P**artnership, i.e. to **C**ommunicate, to **C**ommune, to **C**ontribute. Strong
3. **K**nown for a joint **P**articipation founded on a **C**ommon **C**ause, cf. the Early **C**hurch. Acts 2:42

*They* ***C****ontinued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship…in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

1. **The Foundation of the Fellowship.**

John the apostle, the disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn. 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20) knew what it was to have close and intimate fellowship with the Lord. It is no surprise therefore that in his first epistle he wrote about this fellowship. He mentioned three areas of fellowship as…

1. Fellowship with God, the Father: *Truly our fellowship is with the Father….* I Jn. 1:3c
2. Fellowship with Jesus Christ, the Son: *Truly our fellowship is…with His Son Jesus Christ* I Jn. 1:3d
3. Fellowship with the Apostles: *ye also may have fellowship with us* I Jn. 1:3b
4. Finally, there is no Fellowship with God, if we walk in darkness. I Jn. 1:6

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

1. **The Features or Focus of the Fellowship.**
2. **F**irstly, the **F**ellowship with the Apostles – this is the **F**oundation of the **F**ellowship in the **W**ritten **W**ord.

*ye also may have fellowship with us* I Jn. 1:3b

1. Because the **T**rue witnesses of what happened were the Apostles: I Jn. 1:3a

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you….*

1. They founded the **T**enets **T**aught: *built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,* Eph. 2:20
2. These **T**ruths were specially revealed to **T**hem:
3. *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;* Eph. 3:5 cf. II Pet. 1:21
4. *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:* Eph. 3:9

1. And **T**ranscribed to us in Holy Writ: *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:* II Pet. 3:2
2. Their **T**eachings were **C**onfirmed and **C**ontinued in by the early **C**hurch: Acts 2:42

 *They continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship…* [1st occ of *fellowship* in the N.T.]

 *Remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Jude 1:17

1. It should lead us to **F**ellowship with God*: truly our fellowship is with the Father.* I Jn, 1:3b
2. To **W**orship Him – *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship*

*the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.* Jn. 4:23

1. To **W**alk in His **W**ays: I Jn. 1:6
2. *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*
3. *Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.* Eph. 5:11
4. The Fellowship with the Son: *truly our fellowship is with…His Son Jesus Christ.* I Jn. 1:3c
5. This is the **S**on’s **C**alling for us: I Cor. 1:9

*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1. It is also the **S**on’s **C**ross for us: Lk. 14:27
*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.*
2. Paul himself **S**tated: *That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection,*

*and the fellowship of His* ***S****ufferings, being made* ***C****onformable unto His death;* Phil. 3:10

1. Now **C**ompare the Fellowship of the Spirit. Phil. 2:1, 2-4
2. The **C**onditions of such Fellowship: ***If*** *there be therefore any consolation in Christ,*

***if*** *any comfort of love,* ***if*** *any fellowship of the Spirit,* if *any bowels and mercies...*

1. The **C**haracter of such Fellowship: *Fulfil ye my joy…*
2. *that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

***L****et nothing be done through strife or vainglory;*

1. *but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

***L****ook not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

1. The Fellowship one with one another. I Jn. 1:7
2. The **C**ondition: *if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,*
3. The **C**onstant **C**leansing needed: *and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

 As we Sup at His **T**able this morning, let us **T**reasure the Fellowship we have

 with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and with one another.

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms;*

 *What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Trinity Hymnal #718

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 805**

1. Most familiar to all of us is our Fellowship with one another and in the breaking of bread as with the early church: *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and* ***fellowship****, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* (Acts 2:42). For the last three months because of the Covid\_19 pandemic and the Movement Control Order most of us missed out on this form of physical fellowship; but it is hoped that one does not miss out Fellowship with God, the Father, with His Son and with the Holy Spirit in prayer and in the reading of His Word.

Have you been faithful in this? **REFLECT**.

1. In Scripture, **F**ellowship can also take other **F**orms. For instance, there is…

***The Fellowship of the ministry to the saints*:** II Cor. 8:1- (4), 5

This refers to our fellowship in terms of financial and material resources shared with the poorer saints elsewhere. The world today regards this as giving to charity, but it is not so with Christian giving. While the two refer to the act of giving to the poor, the fellowship mentioned here refers to the sharing of God’s grace to them as exampled in God’s grace extended to poor unmerited sinners.

* It is **S**elfless Giving without expecting a Return. Note its character

These believers give when they themselves are **S**uffering in trial and affliction, and they do so with abundant joy - *How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.* (8:2a).

* They do not **S**pare themselves but give out of their extreme poverty with great generosity and liberality (8:2b).
* They give **S**acrificially even beyond their ability to give. And though Paul feels that they may need it more, yet they plead with Paul and company to take their gifts to distribute them to these poor saints as their act of fellowship with them (8:3, 4).

*For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

Indeed, it is just beyond human words to be able to describe such sacrifice of love and liberality.

* But then what accounts for this tremendous sacrifice?

It is their **S**elfless **S**pirit inspired by God Himself Who set the example of giving in not sparing His Son but delivered Him up for us all to motivate the believers similarly to give as God gives though it can never reach that level. This high sacrificial act is only possible because these believers having experienced God’s love for them, now reciprocate it, to give Him back by giving to others according to His will – they *first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.* (8:5). They know their priority – *they first give their own selves to the Lord****!***

No matter how much you give to others in the name of fellowship, if it does not include what you give of your life to God first, it does not count for God. **REFLECT**

 ***The Fellowship in the Gospel***. Phil. 1:5

 *For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;*

Paul was thankful for the saints at Philippi for having this practical fellowship in partnering with him and supporting him in his answering God’s call to go out and preach the Gospel. They were with him from the beginning and continued to support him right through even as Paul himself acknowledged in Phil. 4:15-19 – *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*.

Have you such fellowship with God’s servants? **REFLECT**.

**The Forbidden Fellowships:**

In the scripture Christians are also warned not to have fellowship with the following:

I Cor. 1:20, NKJV – *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and* ***I do not want you to have******fellowship with demons****.*

II Cor. 6:14 – ***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers****: for what* ***fellowship*** *hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Eph. 5:11– H*ave no* ***fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness****, but rather reprove them.*

Beware whom you have fellowship with. **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder: *P****rioritise all* ***F****ellowships with God as in His* ***W****ill and revealed in His* ***W****ord and all will* ***F****all into* ***P****lace.*