

Real Fellowship & Accountability

Discipleship Conference Workshop

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The biblical basis, practical how-to's and the temporal and eternal benefits of quality fellowship and accountability relationships with God and with each other.

- I. The ultimate purpose of all fellowship and accountability in fact the purpose of our lives is not our purpose at all, but God's.

Our purpose is to be in complete submission to His purpose and His will that we may grow in our love, desire and passion for God and bare eternal fruit for His purpose and His glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether then you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Rom 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

- II. How to have Fellowship & Accountability with God
What is Fellowship with God?

Fellowship with God

1. Positionally God is in us and we are in God.

John 14:20

"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

John 17:20-23

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

- A. The purpose of fellowship with other believers is in order to have fellowship with God—to grow in our relationship with and love for Him

1 John 1:3

what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

B. We reflect our love for God through our keeping His commandments—a desire to obey Him and as a result both the Son and the Father will reside in us.

John 14:21, 23

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."

If we say and believe we are in fellowship with God and yet we are living in and practicing sin we are lying to our self and others and are not practicing the truth and therefore are not in fellowship with God.

However if our true desire is to walk in the light of God and follow His commandments, even though we stumble along the way, we have fellowship with Him and with other believers. Fellowship with God and other believers is therefore contingent on a heart and desire to follow God's commandments.

1 John 1:6-7

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. God's purpose for fellowship with us and therefore through us with other believers is
- Eternal fruit bearing
 - The joy and contentment that comes from fruit bearing and
 - Protection in the process.

John 15:5-11

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Likewise the enemy works to prevent our fruit bearing so our Lord gives us the third reason for fellowship with Him—protection in the process.

Eph 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION,** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

Eph 5:15-17

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

His purpose and therefore our fellowship with Him in a practical sense is so that He may bear fruit through us and protect us in the process.

3. How do we have fellowship with God?

Ps 119:147

**I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I wait for Your words.**

Mark 1:35

35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

The morning quiet time alone with Him.

- Get up before the others in our house,
- Go to a secluded place to pray
- Then hear, read, study, memorize, meditate on and apply the word of God to your life. In so doing you put on the “full armor of God” before you leave home to go into battle and
- You are protected and prepared for fruit bearing

4. The Benefits then of Fellowship with God?

- We grow in our knowledge of and relationship with Him
- He bears fruit through us
- We come to know true joy and contentment
- We are protected

He will produce an unimaginable abundance of fruit through our lives

Eph 3:20

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

2 Cor 9:8, 10-11

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Ps 1:2-3

**But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.**

**3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.**

- The benefit of righteous living

Ps 40:1-3

40 I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. 3a He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;

- The benefit of His counsel, wisdom and assurance

Ps 73:23-26

**23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. 24 With Your counsel You will guide me,
And afterward receive me to glory.**

James 1:5

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- The benefit of the knowledge of our imperishable heritage and complete protection and victory over the trials of life

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- The benefit of peace & contentment--an eternal impact

John 16:33

33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Isa 26:12

12 Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.

- Through fellowship and time alone with God, He will make this passage a reality in our lives:

Isa 60:22

2 The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly."

Accountability with God

1. What's the ultimate purpose of accountability with God

2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Rom 14:12

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

2. How practically to have accountability with God

A-C-T-S prayer method

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication—prayer requests

Keep short accounts with God. Confession is agreeing with God.

1 John 1:9

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

3. The benefits of our accountability with God

- The benefit of the assurance that Jesus, our high priest, that has been tempted in all ways, yet without sin will grant us His mercy and grace to help in time of our need.

Heb 4:14-16

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prov 28:13

13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

- The benefit of knowing that He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness
- He will bless us in incredible and unimaginable ways and
- We are relieved of the heavy and daunting pressure of guilt

Ps 32:1-5

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" —and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

- The benefit of our being given a pure heart & a steadfast spirit

Ps 51:9-10

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

III. Fellowship and accountability with other believers

1. Our relational position with other believers

- Unity in Christ & with one another

John 17:22-23

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Rom 12:5-6

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. The purpose of our fellowship with other believers:

Jesus purpose in coming to earth

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

- To preach the gospel

Mark 16:15-16

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

- To make disciples

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2 Tim 2:2

2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

- To serve them & to set an example for them of service to others

John 13:3-5

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

1 Cor 10:24

Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

1 Corinthians 9:19

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.

- To build them up and encourage them

Rom 14:19

So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

- To encourage them on to love and fruit bearing

Heb 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- To point them to the their own eternal benefit in fruit bearing

Dan 12:3

Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

- To provide an accountability relationship for each other

Eph 5:21

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

3. How to have practical fellowship & accountability with other believers
- In the context of your local congregation and the small groups therein.
 - But also in a much more intimate relationship—one on one—life on life—the kind of relationship Jesus had with His disciples individually

Matt 18:20

20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

- Confess our sins to each other and pray for each other

James 5:16-17

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

- Assist in restoration of and accountability of one another's relationship with God

Gal 6:1-3

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- Encourage one another with each other's fruit bearing

Gal 6:6

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.

- Encourage perseverance in fruit bearing

Gal 6:9-10

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Ultimately to grow in strength in our relationship with God, with one another and with the world into which we have been sent to serve

Prov 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another

4. Suggested practical methods of one on one fellowship and accountability
 - Become friends and build a relationship in a variety of activities
 - The hour & a half weekly one on one meeting
 - Share personal updates
 - Open in prayer inviting God to direct the session
 - Review current memory verses
 - Review accountability issues—the Check Chart—*“you can only expect what you are willing to inspect”*
 - Daily quiet time
 - Hear the Word
 - Read the Word
 - Study the Word
 - Memorize the Word
 - Meditate & pray the Word
 - Applications of the Word to our lives
 - Sin issues
 - Physical issues
 - Other goals and objectives
 - Work through basic and topical studies together that are designed specifically and targeted to meet felt needs and address sin issues
 - Share prayer requests
 - Close in prayer covering the day’s study and prayer requests

5. The benefits of fellowship and accountability with one another.
 - Protection from the enemy—the value and accountability for putting on the full armor of God
 - We will grow exponentially in our relationship with God
 - We will come to know the true joy of becoming fully functioning disciples and eventually disciplemakers
 - We will bear much fruit which will produce true joy and contentment
 - We will be encouraged in the process

Conclusion

The ultimate purpose of all fellowship and accountability is our growing relationship with God and His eternal fruit bearing through us.

Col 1:28

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

