



What a Fellowship!

*“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us...”* 1John 1:3a

We often hear talk about the “fellowship” when people really mean the local church. When we become born again we are automatically made part of a different and dynamic fellowship. Many churches are looking for ways to attract people to their fellowship in order to “build it up” the local body and pay close attention to the attendance tally which they hang on the wall. They try to produce, plan, and promote programs that will be attractive to various “special interest groups.” Everything from Jazz-a-size to pop-psychology video series given by video preachers (who never notice if your not there anyway), to carnivals (carnival means “flesh” by the way), and mother’s day out programs which are called “ministries” designed to meet the needs of the “fellowship.” Some of these are great ideas. There is only one problem however. They all have nothing to do with fellowship. If we would continue to read the verse in 1John we would see that our fellowship is with the Father and with the Son and any “fellowship” we may have with others is simply the residual effect of drawing close to God. It has nothing to do with us wanting to lose weight, of find a date, or wanting people to feel great.

Sure, we wish that others would “have fellowship with us” but only in as much as we want others to have fellowship with Him. As a matter of fact, “If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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.”

Someone said that when God is not working we have to make a lot of oyster stew. I am afraid we sometimes work so hard at fellowship down in the fellowship hall that God is not even on the guest list let alone ever missed.