

FELLOWSHIP IN THE LIGHT-REVISITED (1 JOHN 1:1-10, 2 COR. 6:1-18)

The last time we addressed this topic, "Fellowship in the Light" we read from **1 John 1:1-10**, which we will do now, although we will be adding to that passage of Scripture, **2 Corinthians 6**. And we will see how they were/are in agreement with what it means to have "Fellowship in the Light".

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[1 John 1:1a] "That which was from the beginning,"

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Beginning="arche:, of which we get the word "achetype"="an original/ideal example, of which those that follow are patterned after¹, a prototype, and is then the first/chief/foremost, ie: has priority ahead of all, and has "preeminence", eminent meaning one who is above all others)². John is speaking of course of Christ Jesus. The same thing, Paul said in **Colossians 1:16-18**, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things **He may have the preeminence.**" Preeminence="protos", which we get the word "prototype". That is where WE have to first start, by having our hearts and minds attuned to Christ Jesus as having the preeminence over ALL of His creation. Ah! "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (**Proverbs 9:10**). Christ Jesus IS preeminent over all of His creation. The Apostle John also recorded Christ Jesus as saying in the book of Revelation, "I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning [arche] and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (**Revelation 1:8**)

What helps us also in our understanding and acceptance of the preeminence of Christ, and of His divine nature, is that GOD IS perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and His Works (**Deut. 32:4**). We can trust Him wholeheartedly! Yet Christ Jesus was/is not merely a man who just happened to get it right and therefore God placed Him above all others. The writer(s) of **Hebrews 1:1-4** speaks of Christ Jesus as follows, "God [Theos], who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed **[1]** heir of all things, **[2]** through whom also He made the worlds; who being the **[3] brightness of His glory** and **[4] the express image of His person**, and **[5] upholding all things by the word of His power**, when **[6] He had by Himself purged our sins**, **[7] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." In the Apostle John's gospel account of the life, ministry,

1 <https://www.wordnik.com/words/archetype>

2 <https://biblehub.com/greek/746.htm>

death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, he begins his letter similarly saying, "In the beginning [arche] was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light of men**. [His life then, living in us, is our Light!] And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5) That is then why we are being called "out of the darkness and into His marvelous light". (1 Peter 2:9)

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[1 John 1:1b] "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life**—"

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[Christ Jesus is the Word of life. And also, Jesus said "**I AM the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**" (John 8:12) As Jesus said in **John 3:21**, "**he who does the truth comes to the Light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.**" Then as we follow Him, He is our Light of life! **Psalm 119:104-106** says of the Word, the Word of life, and His Light, "Through Your precepts [His Word] I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments." To hate every false way is to be following Jesus, the Light of life, as He said in (**John 14:6**), "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" Jesus, also said, "**As long as I AM in the world, I AM the Light of the world.**" (**John 9:5**) Yet, Matthew, in recording Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount", quoted Jesus as saying, "**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**" (**Matthew 5:13-16**) Of what He is leading us in and working through us.

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[1 John 1:2-4] "the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship with us**; and truly our fellowship is **with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ**. And these things we write to you that **your joy may be full.**"

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Once again, as I said last week, as we have looked at many of the facets and names of Christ Jesus over the past few weeks, that corresponds to who HE IS, His relationship with us, and influencing us in our relationship with Him, and then also in our relationship

with one another. That goes WAY beyond Him just being our Savior, as awesome and wonderful as HE IS in that respect. He most certainly IS, and He should be also our Lord and our God. "For **unto us** a Child is born, **unto us** a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (**Isaiah 9:6**) Q: Who would, with sincerity of heart call Him "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"? Those who **know Him** and **love Him**, just as He has shown His love to us first. Right there in that verse, speaks of His awesomeness, His preeminence, that is, the divine nature of Christ Jesus, and also as Him being our Peace and our Wisdom. Remember the Apostle Paul saying in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, that Christ Jesus is for us, from God, our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and our Redemption! That attribute of Christ, as the Prince of Peace, and what He means for us in that respect, we've also read recently, numerous times, Jesus said to His disciples, and He is then saying to us, "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**" (**John 14:27**) The word Jesus used for peace (eirene) is basically the same as shalom, that Isaiah used for "Prince of Peace", and means "to join or to tie together into a whole"³, which is the wholeness/completeness we CAN HAVE in Christ Jesus, which can mean individually, with others, and with God. Jesus spoke a specific blessing to those who will receive His peace and walk in it. "**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God**" (**Matthew 5:9**) But just like our Salvation that is in Christ, so is His peace and the rest of Who HE IS. He is not a one-time going to the altar experience, or a just whenever we feel like being spiritual. HE IS our Way, Truth and Life. He is our wholeness, personally, with others, and with God. And HE IS preeminent over all. To those who have believed on Christ and received Him (**John 1:12-13**), the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, He continues to work in us, as the Apostle Paul said, "being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (**Phil. 1:11**), which then bears the fruit of the Spirit, as HE IS, "**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**" (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

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[1 John 1:5-10 (Fellowship with Him and One Another)]

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. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light [as HE IS the Light], we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our

3 <https://biblehub.com/greek/1515.htm>

sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

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Now, we are told, "But as many as received Him [that's Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:12-14**) What that reveals to each of us, hopefully, is that we cannot save ourselves. Only Jesus can save us from our sins against God and give us the right standing before God to be in His eternal kingdom. Then, as HE IS the Way, the Truth and the Life who will lead us, just as we have the Old Testament example of what was to come for God's people, being led to the Promised Land! We have all hopefully gotten very familiar with **Ephesians 2:8-9** by now. "For by grace you have been saved through faith [that is, believing on Jesus as the Christ, our Savior], and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast." Where does the light of Jesus fit in? First, He calls us out of the darkness and into His marvelous light, as HE IS the Light, and then **Ephesians 2:10** continues by saying, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works [what He is going to work in us], which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." The Holy Spirit, that is, the Light of Christ, begins cleaning us up from the inside out, revealing to us the things that must go and also revealing to us His Way, Truth and Life. And His light should be evident to those around us as we have the Spirit of Christ, who is living in us. Unfortunately, most people, if given a choice, they would rather live unto themselves, even though one could not be anymore blessed than having Him as our Lord, God, and Savior. King David recognized the many benefits of being on the right side with God when he wrote, "I will love You, O Lord, my **strength**. The Lord is my **rock** and my **fortress** and my **deliverer**; **My God**, my **strength**, in whom I will trust; **My shield** and the **horn of my salvation**, my **stronghold**. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies." (**Psalm 18:1-3**)

An absolute indicator as to how well we are obeying God and following His leading and His working in us is summed up in what Jesus said was the greatest commandment and the second which is like it. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these." (**Mark 12:30-32**) The Apostle Paul, speaks in agreement with the Words of Christ, in his love chapter in **1 Corinthians 13**. Summarized, all our works are meaningless outside of the love of God. "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not

parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, **does not seek its own**, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." In the last part of **Matthew 25**, in the end Jesus says He will separate all persons into two groups. He says to one group, the sheep, " 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, **you did it to Me.**' "(**Matthew 25:34-40**) To the other group, the goats, He says " 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (**Matthew 25:45-46**) Jesus did not mention anything about the love of God, just in the doing what IS, at least partly, the will of God. Those who love God though, and others WILL do as Jesus said. Yet, as we know, some of the goats undoubtedly will do some of those works.

Jesus also declared that "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does **the will of My Father in heaven**. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'" (**Matthew 7:21-23**) It is what is in one's heart, hopefully, as Christ Jesus IS working in our hearts to then do those "good works", by the love of God! Jesus saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, **you did it to Me**" takes on a different meaning than the concept of just doing works for others to please God. In our relationship with Christ He leads us, in the love of God, to do those good works! Not for rewards, not to gain favor from God, not to ensure our salvation; that alone comes from Christ Jesus. We love Him as He first loved us, we serve Him and others as He has served us. We are following His example because we love Him. "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might **live for righteousness**—by whose stripes you were

healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21-25) That is very similar to Jesus saying, "he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." (Matthew 10:38-39) The "Arche", the "Preeminent One", He is our Way, Truth and Life, our Peace and Wholeness, our Light of Life Who upholds us by the Word of His Power! How could we NOT love Him and want to obey Him and follow Him and to want the shalom/eirene/peace of God within ourselves, with others and with God!

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[2 Corinthians 6 (Marks of the Ministry)] We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.** We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. [Keeping that peace of God, wholeness/completeness within ourselves, with others and with God] But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers **of God:** in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by **sincere love**, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. O Corinthians! [those who are in Christ] We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. [Immanuel, God is with us!] I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." **"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."**

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"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry." (Psalm 34:15) **2 Chronicles 16:9**, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal **to Him.**"

Heavenly Father,
I confess that I have sinned against You. I ask that You forgive me
of my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins,
I confess with my mouth that Jesus is my Lord, and I believe in my
heart that You raised Jesus from the dead, so that I can have
forgiveness of sins, and be reconciled to You, God, My Father.
I now commit to You, that I will repent of my sins, and live in the
newness of life, being led by Your Holy Spirit, to love God with all
that is in me and to love others as myself as a child of the Most
High God. All this I pray, in Christ Jesus, my Savior and Lord. Thank
You Lord!