

Topic: Fellowship

Text: (1st John 1:1-3)

Introduction

- 1- In [\(1 Corinthians 1:10\)](#) the apostle Paul makes the following plea: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
- 2- Jesus in His prayer of [\(John 17:20\)](#) prayed that all believers be one as He and the Father are one.
- 3- Yet, when it comes to unity, peace among brethren and the principles relating to fellowship, we often have a struggle coming to grips in dealing with such things.
 - a- When it comes to this topic the Bible does have many things to say about it,
 - b- And its relationship to false things.

Transition: Today many are trying to make God’s circle of fellowship larger than He intends. Concerning fellowship, many have the mentality of those in Jeremiah’s day. The weeping prophet declared, *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein”* ([Jeremiah 6:16](#)).

This congregation has made a stand with regard certain men/congregations who abide not in the old paths, but we have made those decisions based on scriptural principles.

Discussion:

- I- **The application of biblical principles.**
 - A- There are general scriptural principles and guidelines that help us in drawing some reasonable conclusions when dealing with those who are in violation of doctrine and teaching a different doctrine.
 - B- In this we must keep balance and know that there are contrasts within the word.
 - 1- II Tim 2:24-26- II John 9-10.
 - 2- Gal 1:8-9-Acts 18:24ff.
- II- **The New Testament teaches that certain spiritual conditions can require a limitation of fellowship within the body of Christ.**
 - A- Within the church of the Lord, fellowship may be **restricted or limited**, to one degree or another.
 - 1- **The rebelliously immoral:** In (1 Corinthians 5), Paul clearly states that impenitent, immoral persons. Such characters are to be “delivered unto Satan” (5:5), or “put away” (5:13), for their own soul’s sake (5:5), and for the protection of the church (5:6-7).
 - 2- **Brother who refuses to make things right with a brother.**(Matt 18:15-17).

3- **Teachers of false doctrine** — **This is where we have the struggle.**

Inspiration instructs us to “turn away from” those who teach divisive doctrines contrary to apostolic truth (Romans 16:17). A heretic, after proper admonition, should be rejected (Titus 3:10). Hymenaeus and Alexander made “**shipwreck of the faith,**” and Paul “delivered them unto Satan” (which means he severed fellowship with them — cf. 1 Corinthians 5:5) that they might be taught not to blaspheme (1 Timothy 1:19-20).

B- How does one determine which teachings are significantly erroneous to warrant disciplinary action or the limiting of fellowship?