

UNION AND COMMUNION WITH GOD (FROM CHAPTER 2-3)

INTRODUCTION

Your *koinonia* or fellowship with God is the foundation for the fellowship with other believers. The common life we share with others is found on the basis of the common life we share with Christ.

The author uses the words Union and Communion. What are the difference between union and communion?

- Union speaks of **family**, while communion speaks of **fellowship**.
- Union speaks of an **objective fact**, while communion speaks of an **experiential relationship**.
 - Objective facts are known truths which don't change by someone's personal opinion or experience.
 - Experiential relationship is a personal experience of being connected with other people.
- Union is a **onetime** event while communion is an **everyday** event.
- Union speaks of **salvation** while communion speaks of **sanctification**.

"There has to be union before communion, there cannot be the latter without the former." – W.E Vine "We can't have the cart before the horse."

UNION WITH GOD

Ephesians 5:30 – For we are members of his body of his flesh and of his bones.

Through faith in Christ, we are members of His body. The term "His body" does not signify merely **ownership**, as we might say in the expression his house or his car. Rather, it signifies **union** or an actual attachment, as in the expression his hand or his heart.

John 17:20-21 – Neither pray I for these alone, but also for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.

- Who is he speaking of? – believers
- What is the purpose of this union? Vs.23 – that the world might believe that God sent Jesus and that God loves us.

We don't only belong to Him but we are a part of Him.

*1 John 1:3, 6-7 – That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have **fellowship** with us: and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ...If we say that 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.*

The word fellowship is used **4x**. The Greek word for fellowship is *koinonia*. It is apparent that John is focusing on the relationship he has with God. This is the foundation for our fellowship.

"As wonderful as it is to realize that God calls us to have communion with Him each day. It is far more wonderful to know that He has called us to actually share in the life of His Son, Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:4 – Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.

John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

We don't only get to spend time with Christ; we get to share in his life. Paul uses the phrase "In Christ" many times in the Pauline apostles.

John 15: 1-11 – Just as the branch shares the life of the vine and just as the body shares the life of the head, so the believer shares the life of Christ because he is "in Him."

"As the life of the vine flows naturally into the branch, so the life of Jesus Christ flows naturally into us."

Is attachment to the vine a onetime event or a daily choice?
Is abiding in the vine a onetime event or a daily choice?

Four ways to live this Christian life:

1. The first way is to **attempt to do it on your own.**
2. The second way is **deciding to do nothing at all.**
3. The third way is the **“Lord help me approach.”**
 - A partial dependence on the Lord.
 - I need God just when I’m in trouble.
4. The fourth way is the **abiding-in-Christ way.**
 - “Lord, enable me.”
 - It is allowing God to do it through you, thanks to our union with Him.
 - In order to abide with Him, we must know that we are in Him.

“It is the believer’s union with Christ, the sharing of His life that makes possible his communion with Him. When union with Christ is properly understood and embraced, it leads to communion with Him.”

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Our communion should be more than just having a quiet time in the morning; it should be an **all-day affair.**

Is that possible with everything else demanding our attention?

What do I think about when I do have discretionary thinking time?

“Let God be the **home** of your thoughts.” Where ever your mind goes when you doze off is the home of your thoughts. (It could be your deepest desires, worries, and distractions.)

The morning quiet time lays the **foundation** for our all-day communion with God because it tunes our hearts to commune with Him the rest of the day. If the morning quiet time is the **foundation** of that communion, Scripture meditation and prayer are the **framework** of it.

1. **Memorize** the Scripture.
2. Pray when a **burden** arises in your heart (Nehemiah 2:4-5).
3. **Love** Christ.
 - “You must walk with God before you work with God.”
 - “Before there is duty, there must be devotion.”
 - Example: Mary and Martha
4. **Sharing** with God. What can we share with God?
 - Give God **glory, honor and thanks** (Revelations 4:6-9)
 - Our love through **obedience**
 - **Confession** of sin (Psalm 51)

CONCLUSION

Our relationship must be right **vertically** (with God) before it could be right **horizontally** (with other people).

(Extra Notes on Abiding)

John 15:5, 8

It makes logical sense that the wider the connection of the branch to the vine, the more that sap could flow through, which allows the branch to bear much fruit.

It makes logical sense spiritually that the more time you spend with the Savior, the more you abide with Him, the more the life giving Spirit can flow in you and through you; to produce much spiritual fruit.

How do we abide? The word abide means to remain, to tarry, and to stay.

1. Abide in His Law vs.7
2. Abide in His Love vs.10

John 14:23 – Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Why should we abide?

1. Our self is hopeless (vs.5)
2. Our supplications is heard (vs.7)
3. Our satisfaction is heaped (vs.11)

Vs.8 says that God is glorified if we bear much fruit. According to vs.5 the only way to bear much fruit is to abide with Christ.

Luke 24:29 & 32 – But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us... And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?