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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?  
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Webster defines fellowship as "*companionship and association on friendly terms*".  
Based on Isaiah 59:2, how commonplace do you think it actually is to have fellowship with God?

What do you think—would many of your neighbors/co-workers say they are "*on friendly terms*" with God?

In 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, what all is included in that experience which Paul refers to as being "*called into fellowship with the Lord Jesus*" (v. 9)? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?

- Read 1 John 1:5-7. What message is John announcing? Rephrase it in your own words.

"Light" and "darkness" clearly are figurative ways of speaking of "holiness" and "sin" (see v. 8-10).  
What is the connection of holiness to fellowship and of sin to fellowship?

According to that test, **how sure** are you that **you** are in fellowship with God and other believers?  
Mark the following scale with a "**G**" for fellowship with God and a "**B**" for fellowship with believers.

What do you conclude from this exercise?



## Application-Challenge

- Know that fellowship with God and man is objectively grounded in salvation (1 Corinthians 1:9).  
Repentance and faith in Christ is the singular and sufficient foundation for fellowship.
- Preserve Christian unity by **making every effort to love** (Ephesians 4:3 & Colossians 3:14).

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



When many of us think of “fellowship”, we envision what happened in millions of American homes last Sunday—things such as Super Bowl parties. Food, friends, fun. And to be honest, that is a sort of fellowship—a friendly relationship centered around some common interest. But the Bible points to an obstacle that makes fellowship with God impossible: all human beings are described in this passage as “sinful”, “wicked” and “dark”. God does not share any of those qualities—he is holy, righteous, and good (Isaiah 59:2 & 2 Corinthians 6:14). In this way, God and mankind do not share a “defining feature of primary importance”, so fellowship with God is absolutely impossible for sinful humans. When Isaiah encountered God, he said that he was toast because he knew that he and all people are sinful (Isaiah 6:1-5). Since fellowship is a close mutual association based on things shared in common, we’re cut off from any possibility of fellowship with God. We cannot make ourselves clean, and God certainly would not make himself sinful and filthy. *Or would he?* God created a basis for fellowship by sharing in our sin—and destroying it by nailing it to the cross—so that we could share in his holiness! (2 Corinthians 5:21 & Isaiah 53:4-8). Now God calls people into fellowship with himself (1 Corinthians 1:9 & 1 John 1:3).

Our world is full of contention and strife. Access into fellowship with God—the solution to the vertical problem between God and mankind—also solves mankind’s horizontal problem (Ephesians 2:12-15). There are walls of hate between people. We cannot get along with our fellow man. We cannot keep nations together, we have difficulty keeping our own families together—our divorce rate proves that. But those obstacles to fellowship are nothing compared that which was between sinful man and holy God. When God solved our sin problem he also gave us his righteousness, and this is the basis for, and only hope for, humans to have true, lasting fellowship between ourselves. In Christ, God gives us a durable basis for fellowship. Genuine Christian fellowship is the only thing that runs deep enough to hold diverse people together. God creates the basis for our fellowship—with him and with each other.

We don’t create unity, but we do have to make every effort to preserve that peace that God achieved for us through the death of his Son (Ephesians 4:3). We are joined together in Christ—our union with Christ is a theological reality—but that does not mean that fellowship cannot be damaged. It can be—that’s why Ephesians 4 says that we must “make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”. It takes effort in order to experience the fruit of the fellowship Christ purchased for us with his blood. We preserve our unity and minimize our differences by focusing on the bedrock reality that what we share in common—fellowship with God—is more fundamental, more durable, than any superficial differences between us. We preserve the fellowship Christ gives us by loving and serving fellow Christians.



Join other men as TCC’s PointMan Men’s Ministry launches two new opportunities to discuss and apply *Change Me: The Ultimate Life-Change Handbook*.

- Each Wednesday, beginning February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Choose your best time:  6<sup>30</sup>am (at **T**riangle **C**ommunity **C**hurch)
- \$15 (book)  7<sup>00</sup>pm (at a home in the Bass Lake area)
- For more info: Go to: **TCC.org** Keyword: ▶**PointMan**



## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to explore how biblical fellowship.*

**Monday**— 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 List all of the blessings that salvation brings.

**Tuesday**— 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 How does fellowship with God make living in sin inconceivable?

**Wednesday**— Philippians 2:1-2 What should result from our "fellowship of the Spirit"?

**Thursday**— Acts 2:41-42 What is the "normal" life of the church? How does your life compare?

**Friday**— 2 Corinthians 13:11-14 List all of the blessings in this closing blessing ("benediction").

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Psalm 96.

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?