

The Foundation Of Christian Fellowship

John 15:4-5 [New King James] *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

What Jesus Christ is telling us very clearly is that without His presence in our lives we can accomplish nothing spiritually.

A grape branch cannot produce grapes “fruit” unless it is joined to the vine, Jesus Christ [verse 1].

Notice the basis of Christian fellowship as explained by the apostle John under direct influence of the Holy Spirit, [2 Timothy 3:16].

1 John 1:3 [New King James] *“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.”*

True Christian fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son.

1 John 1:5-7 [New King James] *“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, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

Light and darkness, what is this in practical terms?

John 3:19-21 [New King James] *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But **he who does the truth** comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

All who are continuing to sin in their lives are in the darkness of Satan’s deception, being blinded to the very reason for their existence, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

It is only the person who “does the truth,” that is obeys the Word of God, the Christian Bible [John 17:17], who are now in the light, that is walking with Jesus Christ.

John 8:12 [New King James] *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”*

Following Jesus Christ as one of His disciples.

John 1:1-5, 14 [New King James] *“In the beginning 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. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” ... “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.”*

Jesus Christ is the only true light to the truth, how we should live [the way] and the life [eternal], [John 13:6].

What these scriptures are telling us is that we can **only** have true Christian fellowship when each individual Christian is joined to Jesus Christ and to the Father, as a branch of a grapevine is joined to the vine.

How is each Christian joined to Jesus Christ?

John 14:15-18 [New King James] *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever, the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Notice the last five words, “I [Jesus Christ speaking] *will come to you.*”

The active presence of the Holy Spirit in a person is the active presence of Jesus Christ in that person. For both are God, [Romans 8:9].

With the above in mind, I want to ask you when, what day do we find the presence of Jesus Christ?

What time has Jesus Christ set apart as holy time in which He will place His presence, making that time holy?

Genesis 2:1-3 [New King James] *“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”*

Part of the work that God, Jesus Christ, had completed was the physical creation of the first human beings, in the “*image*” of Himself.

The Hebrew word translated “*image*” is “*tselem*” meaning shadow, outward form, not attributes, the “*likeness*,” Hebrew word “*demûwth*” meaning manner, attributes or character, was yet to be created in human beings and the seventh day was “*sanctified*,” Hebrew word “*qâdâsh*” meaning pronounced holy, or to be kept holy.

This making of the seventh day holy was the first step towards directing all human thought towards God as the Creator on a regular basis.

How was the seventh day made holy?

Exodus 3:1-6 [New King James] *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, ‘I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’ Moreover He said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”*

The very ground where Moses stood, near to the burning bush, was holy ground, because Jesus Christ’s presence was there.

Jesus Christ’s presence makes holy whatever or wherever He is.

In the same way we can only be holy if, and only if, Jesus Christ’s presence by the Holy Spirit is within us.

So Christ's presence in the Sabbath makes that space in time holy time.

When the Word became human flesh, [John 1:14] and was named Jesus Christ, 4000 years after He originally rested on the seventh day, the Sabbath, making it holy by putting His presence in that period of time, He continued to keep the Sabbath holy, putting His presence in it.

Luke 4:16 [New King James] *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.”*

Jesus Christ has **not** changed, He is still placing His presence in the seventh day, making it holy, [Hebrews 13:8].

So Jesus Christ's very presence is in His day, the day He made holy at the creation of human beings.

Mark 2:27-28 [New King James] *“And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.’”*

This day was made for human beings to point them towards God as the Creator and spending special time within His presence that his character “likeness” may become our character, as the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit become ours.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

This can happen most powerfully during a time that is set apart, because it is holy, each week.

When God's own obedient children [Christians], each joined to Jesus Christ, each walking in harmony with Jesus Christ, obediently have fellowship with Jesus Christ, He is there, in their midst, in spirit.

This then joins us in fellowship with God the Father.

When people assemble on any other day, Jesus Christ's presence is not in that day!

You may argue to have your own way, rather than surrender to the truth that has just been revealed to you.

Remember you will have to face Jesus Christ in the judgement as to whether you have accepted the truth.

John 4:24 [New King James] *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Read this scripture and heed what it tells us.

Many churches will tell you that you can worship God according to the dictates of your own conscience.

That is contrary to what we have just read in God's Word, the Christian Bible, which Jesus Christ plainly tells us is the truth, [John 17:17; John 14:6].

What authority do people have for seeking to worship God on the first day of the week, Sunday or Friday?

No authority can be found in God's Word, the Christian Bible!

God Himself set apart one and only one day that identified Him as the Creator.

God blessed that seventh day, to be a day of physical rest and for extra spiritual refreshing.

Leviticus 23:3 [New King James] *“Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.”*

God set the seventh day apart as a *“holy convocation”* on the day when His divine spiritual presence is there also.

The Sabbath is the day that identifies the true Creator God whom we are to worship.

No other day can fulfil this great and glorious purpose.

[Please download and study additional articles on this subject on this website, listed under general heading ‘Covenants,’ ‘What Day Is God’s Sabbath Day?’, ‘The Sabbath To Sunday Change’.]