

March 4, 2018

## The Ancient Path of Fellowship

### Intro

*Jer. 6:16 Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...*

- These are the paths that glorify God as we walk in the blessing of His pleasure (Col. 1:9-10).
- The ancient paths are contrasted with the paths of the world:

*Prov 14:12 There is a way that **seems right** to a man, but its end is the way to death...*

- Only on God's paths will we find rest for our souls.

*Matt 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...*

### Definition of Biblical Fellowship

- Fellowship is the gathering of God's people, all of whom are equally loved and forgiven and who share the common Life of Christ, the common interests and characteristics of Christ for the common goal of displaying the Life of Christ to the world for the glory of God.

*Acts 2:42 ...they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...*

- Fellowship was a priority for the early church—the very substance and strength of their spiritual life.

## The Significance of Fellowship

- We have been called into the very “fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (**1 Cor. 1:9**).
- We have been saved to fellowship with Jesus Himself. And as we do, we are experiencing the same fellowship that the Lord Jesus shares with the Father and with the Spirit.

***2 Peter 1:4**...[God] has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...*

***Matt 18:20** For where two or three come together in My Name, there am I with them*

- Through our fellowship, we are the visible display of Jesus.

***Acts 1:8** ... you will be My witnesses...*

***John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another...*

## A Picture of Fellowship

## The Results of Fellowship

### Nehemiah 3

- The Lord sent Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem—through their mutual participation.

### Nehemiah 6:15-16

*Matt 16:18 ...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*

- It is in our gathering for fellowship as the church of the Lord Jesus that He is seen to be in our midst, that Satan is repulsed, and that God's love is uniquely on display through our mutual love and service.

## The Fellowship of Communion

- Fellowship is the gathering of God's blood bought family to celebrate His loving grace through our inter-personal and inter-connected relationships and activities, as we share the common life of Christ by loving, caring and serving one another, so that the of Christ may be seen by the world that is being enchanted by its own self-interests and self-love.