

FELLOWSHIP WITH UNBELIEVERS



What God Has NOT Joined Together

INTRODUCTION

- Today, we continue our 2026 theme.
- We have begun examining some doctrinal matters that God has NOT joined together.
- Our previous 2 lesson addressed creation and evolution (emphasizing how “theistic evolution” is incompatible with the Genesis 1 creation account).
- Today we want to consider fellowship with unbelievers.



What is fellowship?

- **Biblically** – from the Greek, κοινωνία (koinonia).
- **BDAG** – close association involving mutual interests and sharing. Association, communion, fellowship, close relationship.
- **Bullinger** – to have a thing in common, have a share, to partake of or with.
- **Thayer** – the share which one has in anything, participation. 2)...intimacy – that indicates a close sharing.

What is fellowship?

- **The American Heritage Dictionary**
 1. The companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms.
 2. Friendship, comradeship
 3. A close association of friends or equals sharing similar interests.
- Both indicate a closeness, BUT its usage in the New Testament is more narrow.

What is fellowship?

- **Positively, fellowship is ALWAYS related to spiritual matters.**
- **Acts 2:42** – first usage. A passage addressing worship.
- **1 Corinthians 10:16** – “communion”
- **1 Corinthians 1:9** – called into fellowship with His Son
- **Galatians 2:9** – Paul & Barnabas given “the right hand of fellowship”
- **Philippians 1:5** - fellowship in the gospel (support)
- **Hebrews 13:16** - do good and to share (form of the root word)

What is fellowship?

- **Consider 1 John 1:3-7**
- Our fellowship with one another begins with fellowship with God.
- Fellowship with God is based on walking in the light
- When we sin, we confess our sins in repentance (**1:9**)
- True fellowship brings us “full joy” (**1:4**)
- We ought to seek fellowship with those who are also in fellowship with God.

What is fellowship?

- **Considering these and other texts:**
- We ought to be careful HOW we use this word. Because it is always used spiritually in scripture, we must be careful not to leave the impression that secular occasions and activities are Biblical fellowship.
- Consider the world's perception when we use this word.
- Let us use Bible words in Bible ways.

Fellowship with unbelievers

- There are warnings in scripture about those we should **NOT** have fellowship with.
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** – Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

There are 5 descriptions of this that should NOT exist.

- Fellowship (different word) that means participation.

Righteousness vs. lawlessness

- Communion (our word). Light vs. darkness

- Accord (harmony, agreement). Christ vs. Belial (a term for Satan, or antichrist?)

- Part (a portion of the whole) – believers vs. unbeliever.

- Agreement (consensus) – temple of God vs. idols

Fellowship with unbelievers

- There are warnings in scripture about those we should NOT have fellowship with.
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** – Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
“Come out from among them and be separate”
- Who is the “unbeliever”? One who rejects Christ and God.
 - The world and those under the sway of Satan
- Can include “believers” who do NOT believe what Jesus and God says – **cf. 2 John 9-11,**
Matthew 17:17 – *faithless... generation*

Fellowship with unbelievers

- There are warnings in scripture about those we should NOT have fellowship with.
- **Ephesians 5:11** – have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...
- **James 4:4** – friendship with the world is enmity with God.
- **1 John 2:15-17** – do not love the world or things that are in the world.
- **Matthew 6:24** – we cannot serve 2 masters

Fellowship with unbelievers

- There are warnings in scripture about those we should NOT have fellowship with.
- **Deuteronomy 7:1-6** – Consider Israel. They were warned to utterly destroy the idolatrous nations when they inherited their land.
- NOTE: This does not mean we have no association with the world
John 17:9-17 – the disciples of Jesus
1 Corinthians 5:9-13 – Paul notes we cannot go out of the world

Fellowship with unbelievers

- **But what about believers who are practicing, teaching or tolerating immorality and false teaching?**
- Remember, fellowship is about mutual sharing and relationship. Fellowship with one another is based on fellowship with God.
- IF one is teaching false doctrine or practicing immoral things and refuses to repent, we are NOT to have fellowship with such:

2 John 9-11, 1 John 4:1-6, 1 Corinthians 5:1-6, Romans 16:17-18, Revelation 2:14-15, etc.

Why does this matter?

- We are not to be partakers in other men's sins!
1 Corinthians 15:33, Psalm 1:1, 1 Timothy 5:22, Ephesians 5:6-7
- Where will it lead? Almost always, when we compromise and associate with unbelievers, in time we will drift further away from truth (**cf. Hebrews 2:1**)
Judges 17 & 18 records Micah and an unqualified Levite who was made a priest. When better opportunity presented itself, he compromised further.
- What will it do to our influence?
- How does it affect others trying to do what is right?
- It is a danger to our morals and spiritual eternity.
1 John 3:3, Proverbs 6:27

- As Christians, we are servants of the Lord
(Romans 6:16-17)
To maintain fellowship , WHO we fellowship
with matters.
Scripture is clear that God has NOT joined
together fellowship with unbelievers!



WHO ARE YOU IN FELLOWSHIP WITH?



What God Has NOT Joined Together