

Philippians 1:3-5 **Genuine Fellowship**

Introduction:

We see that Paul's benediction to the Corinthians perhaps best summarizes the full depth and breath of Christian fellowship. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (II Cor. 13:18) Paul establishes the very beginning of our fellowship even before we were born in the elective love of God the Father choosing us. The justifying grace of the Son of God comes to us by the atoning work of Christ upon the cross, and finally the Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit begins at our regeneration and continues on in this life and will come to completion at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Fellowship in Prayer – v.3-4

A. Thanksgiving – Rom. 1:8; I Cor. 1:4

1. Thank is the Greek word "Eucharist"
2. Thank is the Latin rendering "gratia"

B. Thanking God and His Son for sending the Holy Spirit – Rom. 8:26

1. Matthew Henry collections of his prayers – A Way to Pray
(I Cor. 2:7; Tit. 3:4, 5; Hos. 13:9; Ezek. 16:5, 6, 8)

II. Fellowship in the Gospel –v.5

A. Fellowship with the believers in Philippi

1. Fellowship in relation to worship – Psa. 55:14
2. Fellowship is used in relationship to the apostles doctrine – Acts 2:42
3. Fellowship is used with having fellowship with God's Son – I Cor. 1:9
4. Fellowship is used in a contrastive way with non-believers – II Cor. 6:14
5. Fellowship is used in a benediction given unto the saints – II Cor.13:14
6. Fellowship is used in reference to a body of elders conveying affection with to another – Gal. 2:9; Turn To: Phil. 2:1, 2
7. Fellowship in the Johannian writings – I John 1:3, 6,7

B. Paul's central claim of fellowship is in the gospel – v.5

III. Fellowship in Suffering 3:10

A. God uses suffering:

1. To awaken an insensitive soul to repentance – II Cor. 7:9,10
2. To humble us and draw us closer to Christ – I Pet. 5:6
3. To use as our calling in order that we might honor and glorify Christ – Jam. 5:10-11
4. The antidote to suffering is prayer and singing of the Psalms – Jam. 5:13-18

B. Suffering in fellowship with Christ

1. Persecution and ridicule – John 15:20; Acts 8:1-5
2. The church is growing in the Sudan and China...

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