

Fellowshipping

Chapter 14

I have been reluctant to write this part, although being one of the most important parts of life with God; it is also one of the most twisted and misunderstood aspects of the Christian life. Over the years what the Lord started as fellowship, man with the pushing and twisting with perverseness of the religious spirit making it what we now call "Church."

14.1 Religion

The main purpose of the enemy is to control us: through sin, possession, obsession, witchcraft (jezebelism), and religion. The main battle in life is the battle for our minds. When you look at the main things God says is that it matters what you do. Everything you do is controlled by your mind. It is your mind that controls your actions, your words, your ideas, your decisions. Although your heart influences your mind, it does not (my human, earthly) mind and what your body or mouth does or says.

When man are controlled by the religious spirit took hold of Christian life and tried to organize, customize, structuralize and compartmentalize our life and God, they created a religious "Church."

By the way, I need to mention here that this religious spirit is the same one that killed Jesus through the Pharisees and Sadducees, the religious men of that time.

After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead this happened.

JN 11:45 "Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. [46] But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. [47] Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin."

"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. [48] If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

JN 11:49 "Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! [50] You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

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JN 11:51 “He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, [52] and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. [53] **So from that day on they plotted to take his life.**”

These were the good religious men of the day, they knew the Torah, Jewish bible, backwards and forwards and they read and knew of the prophesies of Jesus coming and still these good and honest religious men killed Jesus.

AC 17:22 “Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are **very religious**. [23] For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”

JAS 1:26 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. [27] **Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**” FALSE RELIGION!!!

You can see that God accepts as a religious person, well how many churches are being truly religious? Some feed and look after the orphans and widows but they themselves are spreading pollution—false religion.

What we call today of “Going to church” is not true religion.

True religion is this

MT 28:16 “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. [17] When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. [18] Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”

Well can you make disciples of all nations by “Going to church” on Sunday for one or so hours a day? Likewise, can you teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded by “Going to church” on just Sunday for 1 or so hours a day? Can you teach everyone how to spread the gospel by “Going to church” on just Sunday for 1 or so hours a day?

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Or He says in Mark about true religion:

MK 16:15 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. [16] Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. [17] And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; [18] they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.""

As you can see here that Jesus is talking one thing regarding the temple and the religious people see it in the religious way.

JN 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

JN 2:20 "The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" [21] But the temple he had spoken of was his body. [22] After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken."

So it goes with church. Church is the body of Christ and not a place, just like the temple is the body of Christ and not a physical place to go to. So please note that Jesus did not say, "Remember to 'Go to church' on Sundays"!!!!

14.2 "Going to church"

He said:

MT 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you".

How can you learn how to do as Jesus commanded by just "Going to church?"

Can anyone, yet alone everyone, do this in Mark by "Going to church" only on Sunday for one or a day or so?

When you read church in the bible, it only refers to us, the Children of God, those born again in spirit. God calls His church the "Bride of Christ." This and others like this are used to provide an analogy to show even in the human form, the intention of the relationship with God. What is the purpose of marriage, besides having children—for it is better to marry than sin—it is to provide a way to always—or at least as much as possible—to be with the groom ALWAYS. And even the purpose of marriage is to have children, for what? So that the child can be with their parents ALWAYS; so that the child will ALWAYS have both a mother and Father to raise them in to a great person by

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being with their parents ALWAYS. We call God our Father, why? To realize that He is our parent and that He wants to be with us ALWAYS. If you love some one how often do you want to be with that person? Well ALWAYS, right?

Well then, does God only want to be with you for 1 hour 1 day a week on Sunday? Is that how long the Groom wants to be with His bride? I thought He wants to be with His bride ALWAYS.

So how do you thing He feels when we only see Him one day a week for only one hour or so. That is far from a cry of ALWAYS.

So what did the early church do?

The church, in the bible, lived together. They were always together. They were always in prayer. They shared all of their money, food and housing. They lived in fellowship; they did not just get together once a week for about one hour. They were always in fellowship with each other and with God.

Please do not get me wrong; Sunday church meeting, or fellowship or worship service is great. We need that, but I am saying that, that is not ALWAYS. I am saying that Sunday service should be all day with God and not just socializing. Socializing is important so that brothers and sisters can get to know each other, but if that is all you do, then no wonder your group is going nowhere.

But not the early church. Peter and Paul were doing miracles, healing sick and raising the dead because they were ALWAYS fellowshipping.

14.3 Why Fellowship?

Do you realize that every time Jesus was together with His disciples, He was in fellowship? Do you realize that every time Jesus was teaching, He was in fellowship? Do you realize that Jesus was in fellowship ALWAYS? Did He only meet one day a week for one or so hours? NO!!! He was in fellowship ALWAYS.

What is the purpose of fellowship? It is 1, to bring each member to the same unity of Faith so that all are prepared to do the Lord's will, 2, it is for recuperation through ministry after warfare, and 3, finally to praise and worship our Father and our God.

The Lord brings together people who have the same interest in the Lord. They have the desire to seek the Lord and they want to follow God and only Him. Never anything formal, just God loving people coming together for Jesus. Not social. Coming together as Mary (Martha's sister) did with Jesus and not Martha. We live with Jesus we do not work for Jesus. Remember how Jesus rebuked Martha and loved Mary when Martha scolded Mary for not working for Jesus instead of Mary ministering to Jesus.

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Well fellowship is Christ loving people coming together to minister to the Lord, like Mary did.

Christians need to meet in fellowship. They need to gather as the Lord leads. He is the head of the Body, and He orchestrates the fellowship meetings, for He is the purpose of the meetings and He runs it as He sees fit, not any one or all people. He directs the meetings, there is never a set agenda, never a set purpose, nor a preconceived idea nor is there any type of custom or rule or mandate. He is all in all. He runs it as He wants. We meet to seek Him and His direction for one and all.

The fellowship direction is to let the Holy Spirit out of the box to do as He sees it. Everyone is equal. Everyone should (which means everyone can but does not have to) have something to share. It is primarily for everyone to share what the Lord has done in their life, so that all can be blessed by what God has been doing. There should be a teaching, for although everyone is equal in the eyes of the Lord, everyone has specific experience and teaching from the Lord, which is that everyone has the same purpose in the Lord, so all can learn from the others experiences.

Then there should be prayer for each other, for one of the other purposes of the fellowship is to support each other. Share each others burdens.

GAL 6:1 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. [2] Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. [3] If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, [5] for each one should carry his own load.”

GAL 6:6 “Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor.”

14.4 What is fellowshiping?

It is allowing the Lord to bring those in the fellowship to the same unity of Faith, by someone bringing a teaching, another an experience, another a prophecy, and yet another an interpretation, someone a dream, and another a vision; all of this by the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit and only Him. In this way everyone is participating and sharing what the Lord has done in their life. This is sharing their blessing with everyone so all can fellowship in their joy of the Lord. Also, this way all can receive edification to bring all to the unity of faith to know who and what God our Father is and to understand His Kingdom.

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EPH 4:9 “(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? [10] He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) [11] It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so **that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**”

EPH 4:14 “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

EPH 4:17 “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [18] They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. [19] Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”

As we have been praying and discussing what the Lord would have us do, He has led us to this concept: Fellowship. In that we are all people of similar interests and pursuits in the Lord. We are all seeking His guidance and His direction. We are all seeking to do the will of our Father in Heaven. We are all the same, in that no one is higher or lower than the other. The Lord is the head and we are all His friends and willing servants.

Each fellowship group is called together by the Lord. They are to support one another, to teach one another, to pray for one another, to love one another and to fight for one another. Each fellowship group if they stick together, will have awesome power and with it they can do awesome things for the Lord.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. “

Ecclesiastes 4:12

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20

This is how the early church was able to fulfill what the Lord said for Christians to do because they fellowshipped ALWAYS:

MT 28:16 "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. [17] When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. [18] Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

AND

MK 16:15 He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.** [16] Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. [17] And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; [18] they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

As you read the New Testament, look for all of the fellowshipping that they did and compare it to today, and see for yourself.

Appendix A

Fire Starters - Releasing the Church

By Robert I Holmes

John the Baptist was known for his fiery repentance preaching. This wild man of God, to whom all of Israel came, declared concerning Jesus: "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with FIRE!" (Luke 3:16). Christ in fact said of Himself "I came to set the world on fire, how I wish it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49).

The nature of this ministry was made clear to me on the last day of 1995 when the Lord came to me and said: "The city of Sydney was set on fire two years ago (January 1994 in fact). It was circled about, and burned throughout by evil pyromaniacs. A dozen wicked men touched the lives of every inhabitant in the Sydney area. These things were a sign. I will again set this city on fire! But not with evil, but for good, not by fire bugs, but by my Holy Ghost Fire Starters.

There are holy men of God, who will spark the fires that touch the lives of every person in my kingdom one way or another!"

This very same message was heard by a colleague of mine- Kevin Brennan, editor of "The Voice" prophetic magazine in Queens land. An elder said to him on the same day that we would see the "Fire-bugs of the kingdom" come forward, and that this group he was among were just such people.

Then in January 1996 I had a vision confirming this message: In a vision the Lord said to me "Look at the house of Israel", and I looked and saw a teeming multitude. He said "Many who you see in the church are not in the house [of the Lord]. Yet I have my fire starters in every land and province. Behold, I am about to mobilize my church. I will light a fire under them." I looked again at the multitude and saw some lashing themselves, I saw men in chains, and others bound.

Some were sitting on the ground rocking back and forth. "See, in the church many are bound by religion. They have been deceived and follow in the traditions of men, they are ignorant of my Son, they ignore Him. See those who have grown cold in captivity. They think they are free but they are bound. They have been taken captive to Babylon in chains. Some whip themselves with the Law, for they are under the Law, and not under Grace". I could feel the Lord's heart, burning for them, burning for the lost, and filled with love for His bride."

The Fire-Starters

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God is looking for a people He can use to start the fires burning. The fires of repentance, the baptism of the Spirit, a fire under the church! The fire starters will come in this aspect of Christ's ministry, kindling a fire on the earth. It will bring with it division, but not like church splits and doctrinal division. It will be division over Christ himself, over the living relating, powerful Jesus whom we are called to be intimate with. Men and women of God, called and raised up in the anointing of Jesus who will do the works He did, and more in His name. The anointing of the fire starter, I believe is linked very much to Christ's own mandate, to:

- preach the good news to the poor (in spirit?) - bind up the brokenhearted - proclaim freedom for the captives - release the prisoners from darkness - proclaim the year of the Lord's favor - provide for those who grieve in Zion - bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes - bestow the oil of gladness instead of mourning - put on them a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair - rebuild the ancient ruins.

The Mandate for Fire-Starters

From the two revelations I heard at the beginning of this year, it is evident that God shall sovereignty raise up these individuals. Many are in the organization called the church, yet are not in the house of the Lord. The fire starter will be used of God to lead many to true faith in Christ, many who call themselves by the name of Christ (Christians).

They will soon be used to set the church on fire! The Lord will use his remnant to touch the lives of every inhabitant. The revival fires will not be hidden, but will be evident to all. I believe that the media will play a large part in spreading this message. The fire starters will mobilize God's church by lighting a fire under those who slumber. As Tozer lamented, "Those who have the light, are peacefully at rest, asleep in it!" God is not at all happy with this situation, and will use his servants to light the Lord's fires, which will stir the people out of their slumber and onto the streets, into their given callings and ministries.

They will loose the people from their bondage. The place, which was supposed to bring liberty, has brought bondage. A friend of mine had a vision several years ago in which he saw a giant man chained to the earth. A hand came and smashed the chains off, and the man rose. His name was 'lay man'. It is true that the current "Pastor/ flock" or "Minister/ laity" system has chained many. The pastor does the work, the church pays him to do it. Because of this, many have become captive to the a religious spirit.

The religious spirit looks for outward adherence to rules, not inward relationship with the Lord. People look to performance rather than relationship. Following religion is rather like following other deities, which is explicitly spoken against in Deuteronomy 6: "Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you" (vs. 14-15). God does not look at outward appearance, but rather to the heart.

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Many follow in the traditions of men. We brand one another with labels, depicting which segment of the body of Christ we belong to. Paul lamented from some in the early church who followed after Paul, or Apollos or others instead of following Christ alone. Jesus also said "They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." (Mark 7:8). This is as true in the traditional church as in Pentecostal/ Charismatic ones.

It is also an unfortunate truth that many ignore God's Son, and are ignorant of Him. This sadly happens when we serve a system instead of the Lord Jesus. Many in the church are busy, but they are running about like Martha's. Many of us are busy 'about the Lord's business' which is not ordained by Him at all. Christ said "I do nothing except that which I see the Father doing. Likewise we must not do anything except His mandated will.

Mary however, chose to listen to Jesus and not busy herself with so called service. The Lord sternly rebuked Martha saying: "Martha, Martha... you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42). Intimacy with Jesus is sadly neglected in the church- for those who chase knowledge over relationship, and those who seek God's hand for blessing rather than His heart for acceptance.

Many commentators have remarked that we live in a Laodicean age. It is true that we live at a time when the church has unparalleled prosperity. But the rebuke Christ gives the church of our age is clear: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." (Rev 3:15-17)

Conclusion

The fire starters shall be found shooting flaming arrows into the 'establishment'! This will of course threaten to burn the work of man down and bring people out to the city of God. People need to come out of churchianity and into the kingdom! Churchianity, with all its trappings, are in fact a kind of Babylon. Many in the church are taken captive to Babylon by being wooed by worldliness and wealth. Jesus said that for some the seed would grow in the soil but the cares of the world rise up and choke it. This leads to becoming captive in chains. When the cares of the world have crowded out our prayer life and we have become enslaved to our debts we are in danger of being captive to mammon. It is for this reason Christ warned, "You can not serve two masters".

God's fire starters will bring the bride of Christ back into what she was called for- as described in the closing parts of verses 6 and 7... "and [then] you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of their shame my people will receive a

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double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs." We are coming to a time in history, when the church will be shaken, and the establishment of man will be burned. God is going to 'test the work of man by fire' and only that which is made of gold, and jewels will last. Many will come through this period, but only as through the flames (1 Cor. 3:13-15).

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