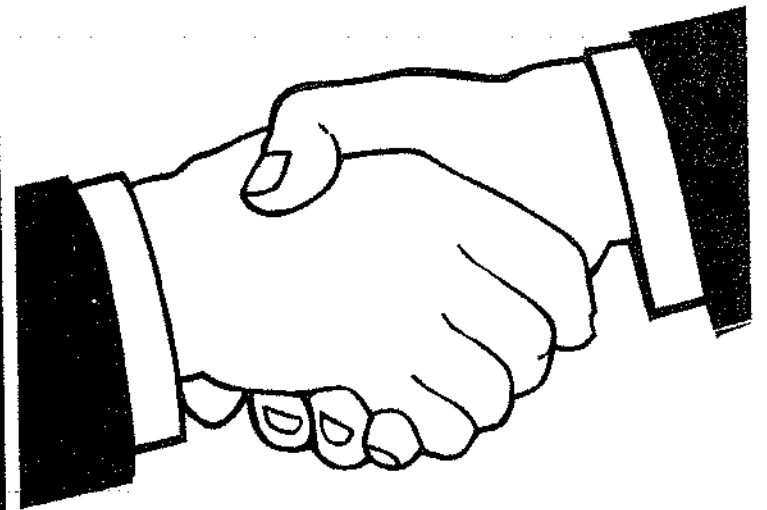


# Biblical Discipleship

9



OTHER CHRISTIANS





**LESSON 9: OTHER CHRISTIANS****"What is My Relationship to Other Christians?"**

As we learned in lesson one, when you got saved, you moved from the devil's family to God's family. Spiritually, you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in the previous lesson, and in this lesson, we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give the individual a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

**I. How am I related to other Christians?**

- A. They are your brothers (and sisters) in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand, only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your brothers, regardless of any other factors. Likewise, those NOT in Jesus Christ (lost people) are not your brothers regardless of any other factors.

*Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:1-3; Romans 9:8;  
Hebrews 2:9-12*

- B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ.

*I Corinthians 3:5-10*

II. What are my responsibilities toward other Christians?

- A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul's letters opens with a prayer for those he is writing to.

*I Thessalonians 1:2-3; II Timothy 1:3*

- B. We are to minister to each other.

1. Physically—For those in your immediate family.

*Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13*

As well as the entire body of Christ in other areas.

*Acts 11:27-30*

2. Spiritually.

*Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2; Hebrews 13:3*

- C. We are to encourage and edify one another.

*I Thessalonians 5:11*

- D. We are to serve one another with humility.

*Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28*

III. What should be my attitude toward other Christians?

A. The primary attitude should be to love them.

*I John 3:14-16; I Peter 4:8*

B. Be patient with them.

*Romans 15:5-7*

C. Be sensitive to their needs.

*I John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16*

D. Be forgiving of each other.

*Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13*

IV. What is "fellowship?"

A. "Fellowship" is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. However, this is only a small part of true fellowship. It is true that to

fellowship is to share things, but true biblical fellowship goes FAR BEYOND just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer.

*Philippians 1:3-6; 2:1-2*

B. The essential elements of true biblical fellowship are not physical matters such as social status, friendship, common interests, etc.; but are spiritual requirements of personal character.

1. Humility - *Philippians 2:3-8*
2. Honesty - *Ephesians 4:25; II Corinthians 4:2*
3. Love - *John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15*
4. Hospitality - *Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42, 46-47*

C. The areas of true fellowship include, among others:

1. Prayer - *II Corinthians 1:11*
2. Faith - *Romans 1:12*
3. Ministry - *II Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9*
4. Suffering - *Philippians 3:10; I Peter 4:13, 5:1*

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

*Ephesians 4:32; I John 3:14-15; I John 1:7*

NOTE: Among many Christians today, the following attitudes prevail:

1. We are not to associate with Christians who do not believe exactly as we do.
2. "Fellowship" must be centered around a meal or an activity.

From the Bible principles taught in the lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

## 8. True or False:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. True Biblical fellowship is in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. True Biblical fellowship is possible with a lost person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. We must have fellowship with Jesus Christ before we can have true fellowship with other Christians.

## 9. In the event another Christian offends you, list two principles which should govern your actions in attempting to resolve the matter.

- A.
- B.

## 10. In the event your brother refuses to resolve a problem, what should you do?

- \* D. Although doctrinal beliefs are vitally important, true biblical fellowship is not based on exact doctrinal agreement, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You MUST LEARN to have fellowship with Him personally before your fellowship with other believers will be proper.

*1 John 1:3-7; 1 Corinthians 1:9-10*

## V. Basic questions.

## A. What if another Christian offends me?

Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any time with your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. There will be times of offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in your physical family. If and when this happens, if it is serious enough, the Bible gives a definite progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you respond in such a case?

1. Take the offense directly to the other party first, privately, and try to settle it between yourselves.

*Matthew 18:15*

2. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to a leader in your church to attempt to mediate the situation.

*Matthew 18:16; I Corinthians 6:1-5*

3. Do NOT go to the lost world to settle a problem within the body of Christ.

*I Corinthians 6:6*

4. If this matter still cannot be resolved:
  - a. Personally accept the wrong.

*I Corinthians 6:7-8*

- b. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will handle it justly.

*I Peter 2:19-23*

- c. Forgive your brother.

*Colossians 3:13*

- d. Pray for your brother.

*Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14*

6. List four character qualities needed in the Christian's life in order to participate in true fellowship with other believers.

A.

B.

C.

D.

7. List four areas of true fellowship, and give a Scripture reference for each.

A.

B.

C.

D.



NOTES

3. List four attitudes you should have towards other Christians, and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.

A.

B.

C.

D.

4. What does the term "fellowship" mean?

5. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not \_\_\_\_\_ matters, but pertain to \_\_\_\_\_ requirements of personal \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES

OTHER CHRISTIANS  
Lesson #9

1. List the two primary aspects of your relationship with other Christians.
  - A.
  - B.
  
2. List four responsibilities you have toward other Christians, and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.