

The Fellowship of Jesus Christ Our Lord

Harry Pickup Jr., Publishing Systems, Inc.

I Introduction:

A.) Romans 14, Is it lawful to eat meat

Closing his discourse Romans 14 ...

(Romans 15:7 ASV)

(7) Wherefore **RECEIVE YE ONE ANOTHER**, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God.

B.) What is the Basis for "**RECEIVING**"?

I .) Fellowship means *sharing*

1.) Moulton & Milligan "*was used by the Greeks for the closest of all human relationships.*"

A.) When God is the *partner* it consists of our **SHARING HIS CHARACTERISTICS**

1.) Thayer, "**partakers in common** of the same mind."

B.) God Says,

"I am **HOLY**"

(1Peter 1:15-16 KJV)

(15) But as HE which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, **BE YE HOLY; FOR**

I AM HOLY.

1.) "I am Pure"

(1John 3:3 KJV)

(3) And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as ***HE IS PURE.***

2.) "I am Love"

(1John 4:7-11 KJV)

(7) Beloved, *let us love one another*: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for ***GOD IS LOVE.*** (9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son {to be} the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, *if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

3.) "I am Light"

(1John 1:5-7 KJV)

(5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that ***GOD IS LIGHT***, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:* (7) But *if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, (AND THAT IS WHEN)* and *the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

4.) "I am Spirit"

(John 4:23-24 KJV)

(23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) ***GOD {IS} A SPIRIT***: and *they that worship him must worship {him} in spirit and in truth.*

5.) "I am Perfect"

(Matthew 5:48 KJV)

(48) *Be ye therefore perfect*, even as ***YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN***

HEAVEN IS PERFECT.

II.) **MEANS** for such a relationship; **JESUS CHRIST**

A.) As Propitiation;

1.) He died so that a JUST God could forgive us of our sins

(Romans 3:23-26 KJV)

(23) For *all have sinned*, and come short of the glory of **GOD**; (24) Being justified freely by **HIS** grace through the redemption that is in **CHRIST JESUS**: (25) Whom **GOD** hath set forth {to be} a propitiation through faith in **HIS** blood, to declare **HIS** righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of **GOD**; (26) To declare, {I say}, at this time **HIS** righteousness: that **HE might be just**, and the justifier of him which believeth in **JESUS**.

B.)As Prophet;

1.)Delivered the message by which:

a.)We are informed of God's will

b.) We will be finally judged.

(Hebrews 1:1-2 KJV)

(1) **GOD**, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by {**HIS**} **SON**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

(John 12:48-50 KJV)

(48) He that rejecteth **ME**, and receiveth not **MY** words, hath **ONE** that judgeth him: the word that **I** have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. (49) For I have not spoken of **MYSELF**; but the **FATHER** which sent **ME**, **HE** gave **ME** a commandment, what **I** should say, and what **I** should speak. (50) And **I** know that **HIS** commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever **I** speak therefore, even

as the **FATHER** said unto **ME**, so **I** speak.

C.) **UNIVERSAL** declarations, commands, & invitation

(Acts 17:30 KJV)

(30) And the times of this ignorance **GOD** winked at; but now commandeth **ALL MEN** every where to **REPENT**:

(Mark 16:15 KJV)

(15) And **HE** said unto them, Go ye into **ALL THE WORLD**, and **preach** the gospel to **EVERY CREATURE**.

D.) **INDIVIDUAL** acceptance & appropriation.

(Mark 16:16 KJV)

(16) **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

E.) Testimony of Witnesses

(1John 1:3 KJV)

(3) *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you*, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship {is} with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1.) Declaration made to facilitate **FELLOWSHIP**.

(John 6:45 KJV)

(45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that **hath heard**, and **hath learned** of the Father, **COMETH UNTO ME**.

II.) Gospel response & Fellowship with God

A.) Man's **fellowship with God** only possible through **response to the Gospel**.

(John 6:45 KJV)

(45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God.

Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

1.) Fellowship of Christ result preaching Gospel.

(1Corinthians 1:9 ASV)

(9) **GOD** is faithful, through whom *ye were called into the fellowship of HIS Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2.) **Four persons** involved in fellowship of Christ:

a.) **Saints**, who are called by the Gospel to be sanctified in Christ.

b.) The **FATHER** who called them.

c.) The **Son, JESUS CHRIST** our Lord, the one with whom the fellowship is essentially identified.

d.) The **HOLY SPIRIT**, only by implication, since He is known to be the revealer of the message by which men are called.

(see 1 Corinthians 2)

B.) Faith result of objective approach to revelation

(Romans 10:17 KJV)

(17) So then **FAITH** {cometh} by **hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God.**

NOTE: Five Fundamental principles.

1.) God Exists

AS AN EVER LIVING PERSONALITY AND CAN BE KNOWN AS SUCH.

Paul wrote that **men are without excuse** for not knowing God, **the reason being that God manifested Himself** to them.

(Romans 1:19-20 ASV)

(19) **because that which is known of God is manifest in them;** for God manifested it unto them. (20) For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived

through the things that are made, {even} his everlasting power and divinity; that *they may be without excuse*:

His everlasting power and divinity- are plainly seen,
"Being perceived by the things that are made."

2.) God has revealed Himself.

verbally and propositionally.

God has spoken.

He has spoken in terms of propositions-clear affirmations.

This is an unusual manner of communication.

(1Thessalonians 1:9-10 ASV)

(9) For they themselves report concerning us what manner of entering in we had unto you; and how ye turned unto God from idols, to serve a living and true God, (10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, {even} Jesus, who delivereth us from the wrath to come.

CONSIDER these five clear propositions:

- a.) In contrast to idols, God is true and living
- b.) Jesus is God's son from heaven.
- c.) God's son from heaven became Jesus, a man
- d.) God raised up Jesus from the dead
- e.) Jesus is the savior of man from the judicial wrath of God

3.) God has revealed Himself so that man may know Him

That is, have an acceptable relationship with Him.

(Matthew 11:27 ASV)

(27) All things have been delivered unto me of my Father: and no one knoweth the Son, save the Father; neither doth any **KNOW THE**

FATHER, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal {him.}

"know" in the sense of a relationship.

(2Timothy 2:19 ASV)

(19) Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**: and, Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness.

4.) All that I may know about God I know only by the Word.

The Holy Spirit convicts, converts, and controls men **entirely and only through the Word.**

(2Timothy 3:16-17 ASV)

(16) **Every scripture** inspired of God {is} also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. (17) That **the man of God may be** complete, furnished completely unto every good work.

i.e. that man may be of GOD

We have no way of settling any spiritual question-fellowship or any other question- if we presume to know anything other than through the Word of God.

5.) The most important circumstance in my life is my personal and individual relationship with God.

C.)Man's Knowledge less than perfect

but sincere truth seekers can have confidence..

1.) God, who made man, delivered truth in a way suited to man's capacity

(Ephesians 3:2-6 KJV)

(2) **If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward: (3) How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, **when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**) (5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of

men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (6) **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

(Ephesians 5:17 KJV)

(17) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but *understanding what the will of the Lord {is}*.

When Pilate says before Jesus

"What is truth"; the idea that truth was *complicated, evasive, & above man's ability to grasp*

Was a good sounding phrase *to ease the conscience* when truth was dictating something they did not want to do.

Same approach is used today

We call it "muddying the water."

2.) God knows our thought, & the inner spirit by which we serve Him.

(Hebrews 4:12 KJV)

(12) For the word of God {is} quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and **{is} a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

(Romans 1:9 KJV)

(9) **For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel** of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

(Romans 2:29 KJV)

(29) **But he {is} a Jew, which is one inwardly;** and circumcision {is that} **of the heart, in the spirit,** {and} not in the letter; whose praise {is} not of men, but of God.

3.) Fellowship between God & man unequal basis by it's very nature.

a.) **At best is man's endeavor to be Godlike.**

b.) **"Godliness" is more a "God ward attitude" that motivates our doing.**

4.) What God commanded he must have thought we, as we are, could obey!!!!

III.) Consider the following:

Robert F. Turner, sermon preached at pleasant run church of Christ, Lancaster, Texas 1979

A.) **WHEN DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?**

1.) When one **conforms** to the requirements that Christ has given.

(John 14:21-24 KJV)

(21) **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me;** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (22) Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? (23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

B.) **WHO DETERMINES THIS CONFORMITY?**

1.) God judges His servants , in keeping with declared standards.

(John 12:47-48 KJV)

(47) And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. (48) **He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words,** hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

2.) **Individuals answer to God**

(Romans 14:4 KJV)

(4) **Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth.** Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is

able to make him stand.

C.) WHEN MAY I RECOGNIZE ANOTHER AS A CHRISTIAN?

1.) When, by my understanding of God's word, I see one has done the bidding of Christ.

(Matthew 7:15-23 KJV)

(15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither {can} a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (20) Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them. (21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Sheaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

D.) IS NOT MY MOST HONEST APPRAISAL RELATED TO MY UNDERSTANDING OF TRUTH?

- 1.) Certainly!**
- 2.) Truth is not "relative".**
- 3.) God knows exactly when one is His,**
- 4.) but I "know" in keeping with my grasp, of revealed truth.**

(Acts 18:24-26 KJV)

(24) And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, {and} mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. (25) This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, **he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.** (26) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard,

they took him unto {them}, and **expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

2.) Is this conclusion not related to my understanding of Bible teaching?

- a.) It is!
- b.) How else could any conclusion be drawn?
- c.) This does not make truth relative, but certainly make my response a matter of conviction-
- d.) -and that is exactly what God expects of me.

(Romans 14:5 ASV)

(5) One man esteemeth **one day above another**: another esteemeth **every day {alike}**. Let each man be **fully assured in his own mind**.

(Romans 14:12 ASV)

(12) So then **each one of us shall give account of himself to God**.

(Romans 14:22-23 ASV)

(22) The faith which thou hast, have thou to thyself before God. Happy is he that judgeth not himself in that which he approveth. (23) But he that doubteth is condemned if he eat, because {he eateth} not of faith; and whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

(2Corinthians 4:13 ASV)

(13) But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, I believed, and therefore did I speak; we also believe, and therefore also we speak;

E.) COULD I BE HONESTLY MISTAKEN, MY UNDERSTANDING OF TRUTH AT FAULT?

1.) Yes! I do not consider my level of understanding to be equivalent to the divine standard.

(2Corinthians 10:12-13 NIV)

(12) We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. *When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.* (13) We, however,

will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

F.) HOW CAN I BE POSITIVE ABOUT ANYTHING?

1.) God requires honest conviction of me.

(Romans 14:5 ASV)

(5) Let each man be fully assured in his own mind.

(2Corinthians 4:13 ASV)

(13) But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, I believed, and therefore did I speak; we also believe, and therefore also we speak;

2.) To the extent I believe God word is true.

(John 17:17 ASV)

(17) Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.

3.) And am honest in my study and conclusions..

(Matthew 5:6 NIV)

(6) Blessed are those who *hunger and thirst for righteousness*, for they will be filled.

(Acts 17:11 ASV)

(11) Now these were *more noble* than those in Thesslonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, *examining the Scriptures daily*, whether these things were so.

(Luke 2:25 ASV)

(25) And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man *was righteous and devout*, looking for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

(Acts 2:5 ASV)

(5) Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, *devout men*, from every nation under heaven.

(Acts 10:1-2 ASV)

(1) Now {there was} a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of the band called the Italian {band}, (2) *a devout man*, and one that feared God with all his house, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

4.) Exactly to that extent I must conclude that contrary teachings are erroneous.

(2Timothy 4:2-4 ASV)

(2) preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) *For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine*; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; (4) and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.

.) *Attitude*

IV

(Philippians 2:1-4 ASV)

(1) If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, (2) make full my joy, *that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*; (3) *{doing} nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself*; (4) *not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others*.

A.) God made us

1.) He understands our mentality & nature.

2.) Must understand that His gospel designed to deal with man as he is

B.) If God gave us the command, we must have the capacity the fulfill it.

1.) To understand the difference between

(3John 1:5-8 ASV)

(5) Beloved, thou doest a faithful work in whatsoever thou doest toward them that are brethren and strangers withal; (6) who bare witness to thy love before the church: whom thou wilt do well to set forward on their journey worthily of God: (7) because that for the sake of the Name they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. (8) We therefore ought to welcome such, that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

(2John 1:9-11 ASV)

(9) Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: *he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.* (10) If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into {your} house, and give him no greeting: (11) for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works.

The basis upon which Christ receives us

(Romans 15:7 ASV)

(7) Wherefore **RECEIVE YE ONE ANOTHER**, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God.

What Is Your Concept Of That Receiving.

Notice Jesus Letters To The Church's In Asia.

He Acknowledges the Common.

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

He Acknowledges the Differences.

Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

⁶But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate

Is YOUR Basis of receiving one another based upon what you share or upon your differences?

He Does BOTH

Notice this principle at work in worship

Paul states our worship is not for GOD's benefit. HE doesn't need anything.

Acts 17:5

²⁴God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

PAUL discusses at length how items in assembly benefit ONE ANOTHER.

1 Corinthians 14

Prophecy a Superior Gift

¹Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands

³But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. ⁴One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies **edifies the church.**

⁶But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

¹²So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek to abound for the **edification of the church.**

¹³Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

¹⁵What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise if you bless in the spirit *only*, how will the one

who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you are giving

thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. ¹⁸I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁶brethren When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

³⁹Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. ⁴⁰But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

WE assist EACH OTHER (not just one another; it's a mutual benefit) in our effort to become and remain like HIM

Luke 23

⁴⁹And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Mark 15:41

⁴⁰There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; ⁴¹(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem

3 John 3

²Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

³For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. ⁵Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

⁶Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: ⁷Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. ⁸We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN UNOIN

I.)Introduction:

(John 17:20-21 ASV)

(20) Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their teaching; (21) that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, {art} in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.

(Matthew 12:25 ASV)

(25) And knowing their thoughts he said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

"If this be true-and true it is, if Jesus be the Messiah-in what moral desolation is the kingdom of Jesus Christ! Was there at any time, or is there now, in all the earth, a kingdom more convulsed by internal broils and dissensions, than what is commonly called the church of Jesus Christ?"

"Foundation of Christian Union"-Christian System, Campbell, p.85

II.) Campbell's propositions:

1.) Nothing is essential to the conversion of the world but the union and co-operation of Christians.

2.) Nothing is essential to the union of Christians but the Apostle's teaching or testimony.

3.) The testimony of the apostles is the only and all-sufficient means of uniting all Christians.

4.) The union of Christians with the apostles testimony is all-sufficient and alone sufficient to the conversion of the world.

5.) If all Christians were united, the whole world would be converted.

"...to make an effort to rally te broken phalanxes of Zion's King, and to attempt to induce them to turn their arms from one another against a common foe?"

"Protestants had debated their own principles with each other till they lost all brotherly affection, and would as soon have communed in the sacraments with Catholics as with one another."

"convinced that the union of disciples of Christ is essential to the conversion of the world."

"..a few individuals about the commencement of this century, began to reflect upon the ways and means to restore primitive Christianity."

".it is not the acknowledgement of a good rule, but walking by it, that secures the happiness of society. There is no good, by simply acknowledging it in word. It must be obeyed."

"The Bible alone is the Bible only, in word and deed, faith, sentiment & practice."

"Declaration and Address of the Christian Association of Washington, Pennsylvania:
Thomas Cambell, 1809

"A deep and abiding impression that the power, the consolation, and joys-the holiness and happiness- of Christ's religion were lost in forms and ceremonies, in speculations and conjectures, in feuds and bickering of sects and schisms, originated a project for uniting the Christians within the sects upon a clear and scriptural bond of union,-upon having a 'thus sayeth the Lord.'" either in express terms, or in approved precedent, for every article of faith, and item of religious practice...making faith in Christ and obedience to Him that only test of Christian character."