



Date 11/29/2020

*Walk with Christ Series*  
**The Roots and Shoots of Fellowship**

## **1. Roots of Fellowship - The Trinity Community**

### **Genesis 1:26-27**

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

### **John 17**

<sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the **glory that I had with you before the world existed.**

<sup>8</sup>For **I have given them the words that you gave me...**

<sup>20</sup>“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through **their word,**

<sup>21</sup>that they may **all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that **they also may be in us**, so that the **world may believe** that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The **glory** that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one**, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become **perfectly one**, so that the **world may know** that you sent me and **loved them** even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may **be with me where I am**, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me **before the foundation of the world.**

### Diagnostic:

- The one “in Christ” has an *innate gravity* to fellowship with believers.  
→ **Pray** that you to get on your heart what God has on His heart.

## **2. Need for Fellowship**

**Fellowship is essential!**

### 3. Directions for Fellowship

Scriptures – (Carl F. George)

#### Do...

- **Love** (Jn 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Rm 13:8, 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pt 3:8, 4:8; 1 Jn 3-4; 2 Jn 5)
- **One, unity** (Jn 17, Mat 18:21)
- **Serve & submit** (John 13:14, Gal 5:13, 6:2; Eph 5:21; 1 Pt 4:10)
- **Devotion** (Rom 12:10)
- **Honor, Humble** (Rom 12:10, Phil 2:3; 1 Pt 5:5)
- **Peace, Harmony** (Mk 9:50; Rom 12:16, 1 Pet 3:8)
- **Accept** (Rom 15:7)
- **Instruct, speak, teach** (Rom 15:14; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)
- **Greet** (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12)
- **Concern, kind, compassion, care** (1 Cor 12:25, 11:33; Eph 4:32)
- **Patient, bear with** (Gal 6:1, Eph 4:2)
- **Forgive** (Eph 4:32, Mat 18:21-22, Col 3:13)
- **Encourage, lift up** (1 Thess 4:18, 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:24-25)
- **Confess sins** (Jas 5:16)
- **Pray** (Jas 5:16)
- **Hospitality** (1 Pt 4:9)

#### Don't...

- **Judge** (Rom 14:13)
- **Bite and destroy, slander** (Gal 5:15; Jas 4:11)
- **Proud, Provoke** (Gal 5:26)
- **Lie** (Col 3:9)
- **Grumble** (Jas 5:9; 1 Pt 4:9)

### 4. Solution for Fellowship – YOU *(not the other person)*

#### Lectio Divina

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, Eph 1:6*

- Is God bringing to mind a friend to honor, forgive, or reach out to?
- Is God bringing to mind a friend to honor, forgive, or reach out to?



## Walk with Christ Series

# The Roots and Shoots of Fellowship

### Intro: Story



I found this sprouting seed. Ugly! But I was looking at it upside down.



Roots must come first. Then the shoots grow upward.

These sermons on Fellowship will help make sense of the entire Christmas Story.

### → The Roots and Shoots of Fellowship

## 1. Roots of Fellowship - The Trinity Community

### Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

→ God reveals Himself as being *plural* in His nature.

- A Trinity Community.
- Attribute of Community designed into human nature.

But **sin** damages and distorts everything ... including Community.

Division, isolation, animosity, fear.

**Jesus came** to bring reconciliation – remove hostility, goodwill.

- Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

### John 17 (ESV)

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the **glory that I had with you before the world existed**.

8 For **I have given them the words that you gave me...**

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through **their** word, 21 that they may **all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that **they also may be in us**,

so that the **world may believe** that you have sent me. 22 The **glory** that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one**, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become **perfectly** one, so that the **world may know** that you sent me and **loved them** even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may **be with me where I am**, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me **before the foundation of the world**.

Our Christian fellowship is Rooted into the very persons of the Trinity.

#### Diagnostic:

- The degree that Christian Fellowship is not important to you is the degree you are unlike Christ.
- The one in Christ has an innate gravity to interact spiritually with other believers.
- Value ... Enjoy ... Pursue Fellowship  
➔ Pray that you to get on your heart what God has on His heart.

From our **Fellowship Roots** into God, we now can have **Fellowship Shoots** into one another...

## **2. Need for Fellowship**

**Fellowship is essential!**

**King Fredric (1100's)**, Germany – experiment on babies

- What language would children naturally learn to speak? Of course, German.
- Took babies from their mothers, prohibited speaking when with them.
- All the babies died.

**1248, Italian historian** commented: *“They could not live without petting.”*

**Book, *Love and Survival*, Dr. Dean Ornish** puts it this way.

- “Anything that promotes feelings of love and intimacy is healing; anything that promotes isolation, separation, loneliness, loss, hostility, anger, cynicism,
- depression, alienation, and related feelings often leads to suffering, disease, and premature death from all causes” (Dean Ornish, *Love and Survival*, p. 29).
- Dr. Ornish thought this to be so very strange.
- “Mystery remains. No one can fully explain . . . why love and intimacy matter so much” (p. 171).

I can explain it! And YOU can explain it! - our Creator's Trinity Community requires love for health.

**Article:** Science Journalist, **Marta Zaraska**

Reviews the multi-trillion-dollar world of wellness.

- Super Foods, Supplements, exercise, detox programs,
- fanatic → research on “**Soft Drivers**” → change.

In an interview she said, "*Whereas diet and exercise are important, the social connection and the soft drivers of health — how you live your life, mentally, and socially — are even more important*"

Article suggests that social connections – engaging with people - can reduce mortality rate by 45-65%

Marta Zaraska nails it.

You and I know why this is so. God designed us this way.  
(physical training is of some value, but godliness ...)

But relationships aren't fast and easy.

- You can't pop a pill and get relational health.
- Intentionality, invest.

God, who designed us, also gave us the remedy...

### **3. Directions for Fellowship**

Scriptures - **Carl F. George** – giant list of “one anothers” in the Bible.

**Do...**

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### **Don't...**

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It's pretty obvious that when we live our lives like this, it's a testimony to the world. The world takes notice! So that's why ...

### **4. Solution for Fellowship – YOU** (not the other person)

Just one Solution for Fellowship - YOU

I fellowship not only because fellowship is what God wants, but also to get you to do this. What I do, you do.

Some of you already do this. I know that because people say so and so calls me regularly. I'm not saying this to get you folks to do it more.

I'm doing it to get those of you who aren't doing this at all to call someone and be a friend.

Yes, I'm giving you a little push. Push to seek God on how He wants you to do fellowship in these days of restrictions.

As we enjoy the advent of Jesus, Let's consider our role in the lives of others.

### **Lectio Divina**

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