

Koinonia

(Fellowship)

1st John 1:1-3 (Topical Message)



Grace Christian Church Offer to You

If you are interested in learning more about **God's Grace**, want to join a **prayer meeting**, or want to be involved in starting a **Grace Group in your home**, please contact us on FB or our Website. We recently started a private group on Facebook called ***"Grace Healing Hearts"*** to discuss in more depth the wonderful truths of Grace with those who are interested ***(In Private FB Messenger Chat Group)***. Grace Christian Church is in the process of changing the way we assemble as a church by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. ***If you can't come to our geographic location, we want to bring the church to you and your home***, having a similar experience like the 1st century house church.

Have you heard much about the effects of Isolation & Loneliness (by being in lock down, social distancing, and not having human interaction)?

I googled some common effects – Depression - Anxiety – Cardiovascular Disease – Stroke – Sleep Deprivation – Cognitive Decline etc.

Genesis 2:18 (AMP)

¹⁸ Now the Lord God said, **It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone**; I will make him a helper (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.

Genesis 2:24 (AMP)

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united *and* cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God says its not good for man to be alone!

We all need fellowship – But how do we have fellowship when we are told to Isolate with Covid 19?

I want to look at this today: Gods answer is fellowship with Him (Spiritually), and to fellowship with others Christians that are “In Him” (Physically).

Fellowship is God’s Answer to being alone and isolated. Fellowship transliterated in the Greek is the word “**Koinonia**”.

Thus, the title of my message “Koinonia”

Today We will look at Fellowshiping With:

1. God (Spiritually)

2. Christians (Physically)

1 John 1:1-3 (AMP)

¹ [WE ARE writing] about the Word of Life [in] Him Who existed from the beginning, Whom we have heard, Whom we have seen with our [own] eyes, Whom we have gazed upon [for ourselves] and have touched with our [own] hands. ² And the Life [an aspect of His being] was revealed (made manifest, demonstrated), and we saw [as eyewitnesses] and are testifying to and declare to you the Life, the eternal Life [in Him] Who already existed with the Father and Who [actually] was made visible (was revealed) to us [His followers]. ³ What we have seen and [ourselves] heard, we are also telling you, so that you too may realize *and* enjoy fellowship as partners *and* partakers with us. And [this] fellowship that we have [which is a distinguishing mark of Christians] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

John in these 1st 2 verses provided evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ:

Descriptions of Jesus:

Word of Life

Existed from the Beginning

We have heard, seen, gazed upon & touched with our own hands

Made Manifest

Eternal Life is “In Him”

Existed with the Father

Made visible and revealed to us

Let's stop right here and dig into these 2 verses. John is giving us readers eye witness evidence that Jesus Christ existed, and walked this earth as the God man and was physically touched by John. He says that Jesus always existed with God, but was made visible (revealed to him, also other eyewitnesses).

1 Timothy 2:5 (AMP)

⁵ For there [is only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Salvation Prayer

I believe Jesus Christ that you died and rose from the dead for the forgiveness of my sins. Forgive me, come into my life and make me new. I want to have intimate fellowship with You, and fellow believers who are in You. Teach me and guide me in all of Your ways. Amen!

Fellowship with:

1. God (Spiritually)

³ What we have seen and [ourselves] heard, we are also telling you, so that you too may realize *and* enjoy fellowship as partners *and* partakers with us. ***And [this] fellowship that we have [which is a distinguishing mark of Christians] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah).***

James 2:23 (AMP)

²³ And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and this was accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed), and he was called God's friend.

Abraham believed in God, was righteous and called a friend of God.

So, during Covid 19, when we are stuck in our homes, unemployed, worrying about our lives, we can fellowship with our God (Jesus Christ) who is our friend. **How does one do this?**

Illustration:

Remember the show “Who wants to be a Millionaire” hosted by Regis Philbin (just pasted away). If the contestants were stuck on a question, they had an option to phone a friend. These friends were really smart, knew about a lot of things, and often helped the contestant. We as Christians can also phone a friend. His name is Jesus Christ. We can't call Him on the phone, but can call and communicate with Him in prayer.

The 1st answer to isolation and loneliness is fellowship with God and our closest friend Jesus Christ. He will listen to you, and testify (give evidence) to who you are, explain spiritual truths you don't know, and guide you in all His ways. Phone your friend anytime you want. He will also answer the phone, listen to you, and give you the advice you need, in your time of need. Amen! This isn't some special gift given to elite Christians. All Christians can hear from God in this way. We just have to call, and listen.

Fellowship with:

1. Christians (Physically)

³ What we have seen and [ourselves] heard, we are also telling you, so that you too may realize and enjoy fellowship as partners and partakers with us. And [this] fellowship that we have [which is a distinguishing mark of Christians] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

John is telling the recipients of this letter that they may realize and enjoy fellowship with them. That they may become partners and partakers with us.

Brothers & Sisters – This is fellowship with other Christians who are “In Christ” physically. John says to enjoy this fellowship.

This is so important in the Christian life. Fellowshiping with one another. John says that there is enjoyment there. What type of enjoyment?

Loving one another, Praying for one another, Serving with one another, Encouraging one another, Being with one another, Bearing the burdens of one another, Worshiping with one another, Supporting one another, Talking with one another, Connecting with one another, Teaching one another, Counseling one another, Helping one another, Working together with one another

Here is where the rubber meets the road – It is difficult to enjoy fellowshiping in this way, if you are not physically relating to other Christians.

So, a decision needs to be made to not only fellowship with God (1st point), but to also fellowship with other Christians (2nd point).

Brothers & Sisters – At GCC we offer 3 ways to fellowship with us. 2 are virtual, and one is physical. We have a chat group on FB every week, have a Zoom prayer meeting every week, and have an outdoor service (With Social Distancing) at Monmouth Battle ground state park. Please get connected with us (as the Lord leads) and avoid the effects of isolation, and enjoy the benefits of Christian fellowship.

As I said in my introduction – The effects of isolation and loneliness are **Depression, Anxiety, Cardiovascular Disease, Stroke, Sleep Deprivation, Cognitive Decline, etc.** Gods answer to combat this is Fellowship (**Koinonia**) **both** spiritually and physically.

Koininia

(Fellowship)

God says its not good for man to be alone!

Prioritize and Enjoy Fellowshiping with God and your fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ during Covid 19

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