

FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST (2)

BY KEITH GREER

Led by the Light.

*“The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”
{Psalm 119:130} Those who are in sin are in spiritual darkness—walking in blindness.*

“And are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness.” {Romans 2:19}

*“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”
{Revelation 3:17}*

Those in sin are blind until they contact the true light. *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” {John 8:12}* Jesus brought light into a world full of darkness. Paul commented on this light: *“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” {2 Corinthians 4:6}* God gives us opportunity to accept Christ and find our way out of the darkness. *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” {Ephesians 5:8}*

Many rejected this light. *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” {John 3:19-21}* Some people cannot enter into fellowship with Christ because the darkness of sin blinds them and sears their hearts {1 John 2:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4}. We do this to ourselves, but God provides a means of escape. *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” {Colossians 1:13}*

Joined with Christ. *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” {Galatians 3:26,27}* Putting on Christ also leads one to become part of His body—the church. *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether*

slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” {1 Corinthians 12:13}
Our fellowship with the Son is part of God’s eternal purpose {1 Corinthians 1:9}. This relationship is impossible if we do not obey His commands {John 14:15-23}. Christ said it must be a fruitful relationship {John 15:6}. And it makes us joint-heirs with Christ {Romans 8:17}.

Fellowship with Christ’s blood. *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* {Romans 6:3,4} Paul discussed with the Philippians, his fellowship in Christ’s suffering. {Philippians 3:10,11} Over and over, he taught the need for us to die to sin in order to enter fellowship with God {Colossians 3:1-10; Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:6-8}.

Biblical fellowship is not possible without ALL three of these parts. We must be **led by the light, joined with Christ, and buried into His death**, thus contacting His cleansing blood. The social fellowship of our day is not discussed in God’s word. The relationship God desires is a spiritual relationship. ***