

DIVINE FELLOWSHIP (2)

BY KEITH GREER

Saints are Fellow Soldiers in Christ. *"Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need." {Philippians 2:25}* Christians are in the Lord's army. *"To the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house." {Philemon 2}* We put on the whole armor of God for protection as we engage in spiritual warfare with the enemy. *{Ephesians 6:10-18}*. Paul encouraged Timothy to wage a good warfare *{1 Timothy 1:18}*. Listen to his instructions to Timothy: *"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." {2 Timothy 2:3,4}*

Fellow Helpers in the Cause of Christ. *"We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth." {3 John 8}* In the Lord's church there is much work to be done; we need all the help we can get. Who can measure the good accomplished by the small things that God's servants do on a regular basis? We visit the sick and the shut-ins, prepare food whenever necessary, encourage the weak, and teach Bible classes. Paul mentioned the good work of Titus *{2 Corinthians 8:23}*. We need to remember Paul's admonishment to the churches of Galatia, *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." {Galatians 6:10}*

Fellow Workers, Laborers, Servants in Christ. Since these three things are so closely related, we will lump them together. *"Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me." {Colossians 4:10,11}* This doesn't mean that others were not working; Paul just singled out these people because they were with him at that time. Each of God's children have duties to perform. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." {Ephesians 2:10}* Paul addressed the brethren in Corinth as workers *{2 Corinthians 6:1}* and fellow workers *{1 Corinthians 3:9}*. He called Philemon and Timothy fellow

laborers {*Philemon 1; 1 Thessalonians 3:2*}; and Tychicus a fellow servant {*Colossians 4:7*}. All Christians are fellow servants of and for Christ.

Fellow-Heirs in Christ. So we see that we have fellowship as citizens, soldiers, helpers, workers, laborers, and servants; we are also fellow heirs. Those who work and serve together will jointly inherit the reward that God's will promised His faithful servants. "*That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*" {*Ephesians 3:6*} Paul commented on this in his letter to the church in Rome, "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*" {*Romans 8:16,17*} He explained this in his letter to the Galatians {*Galatians 3:26-29*}. It is crystal clear that if EVERY spiritual blessing is IN Christ, absolutely NONE are outside of Christ. Only those who are part of God's family share and experience divine fellowship. Nothing can be clearer if one would just look at the sacred text instead of allowing others to mislead us into thinking that can only be found in the doctrine of men!! ***