

**“How can one be sound in the faith, but be off on their practice of fellowship?”**  
**Ephesians 5:7-11**

1

Are you guilty of practicing  
**FRIENDSHIP - FELLOWSHIP**

2

**How can Biblical Fellowship be defined by human standards, and be right in the sight of the Lord? 1 John 1:5-7**

- ▶ Do close friendships in the church decide fellowship in the Lord?
- ▶ Do recognized name preachers, or highly recommended brotherhood preachers, dictate a Christian’s fellowship in the Lord?
- ▶ Do close ties to friends in brotherhood colleges decide God’s standard of fellowship?

3

**What does it mean to be in fellowship with God?**

- ▶ Why are those who dare question the maintaining of fellowship with unfaithful or unsound Christians, always result in the faithful being ostracized and quarantined?
- ▶ Who is your true friend in this world, is it your family, friends, or is it Jesus?

4

Should any so-called NI church claiming to belong to Christ be considered sound in the faith even though they are off in their practice of Bible fellowship?

Should recognized preachers who come highly recommended by brotherhood publications, human organizations, be considered sound in faith who are off in their practice of fellowship?

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Ephesians 5:7-11

*“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”*

6

Our practice of fellowship is sending mixed messages to our young people and those young in the faith of our Lord Jesus!  
[Stumbling Blocks in the Church]

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:33, Have we not as parents pounded this concept into the minds of our young people?
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, what part of this passage does not seem to be understandable?

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Bible fellowship was never based on relationships with family members or human friendships.

Friendship - Fellowship is not a biblical teaching!

James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11

(People are listening to their feelings and not their Bibles!)

**Our fellowship with God is being challenged by the devil through these individuals we maintain fellowship with. How can friendships constitute Biblical fellowship! Why has this false concept become such a stumbling block to the young and to those who were once faithful?**

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Friendship – Fellowship can not

*“Buy the truth, and sell it not,” KJV Proverbs 23:23*

We should realize that relationships in this world with family, friends, and long time friendships have become the most important thing in our lives, yet Jesus taught in Matthew 12:46-50, *“For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”*

Luke 12:49-57; James 4:4, Taking a stand for truth or not taking a stand for truth will be determined by where you draw the line with the ones you maintain fellowship with in this world.

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Even Jesus ate with sinners?  
What about that?

Consider who made these false accusations against Jesus

**Mark 2:15-17, “How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?”**

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**Jesus never became like those sinners, or befriend them in order to teach them!**

**Jesus never redefined fellowship while in this world!**

11

**Paul taught, “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:22**

**Did Paul have to become a sinner in order to reach sinners, so he could teach them? Romans 2:1-3, 21; Matthew 7:1-5; Colossians 4:5-6**

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## Can you see the false concepts found in Friendship - Fellowship?

“But how can we teach sinners unless we make friends with them first?”  
(Relationship Evangelism, Friendship Evangelism?)

[Shall we Am-Way them into Christ?]

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## Friendship - Fellowship is throwing our relationship with our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ under the bus!

- ▶ Jesus is teaching us that,
- ▶ **You cannot love anyone, or anything more than Me!**
- ▶ Matthew 6:24, “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*”

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## Friendship – Fellowship is of the devil!

- ▶ Matthew 10:35-37, “*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*”
- ▶ Luke 14:25-35, “*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*”
- ▶ What part of “count the cost” don’t you understand? Your friendships may well cost you your soul!

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## CONCLUSION:

- ▶ Jesus must be put first above all others as our friend, God is our Heavenly Father unless we do not receive and obey His will. Hebrews 12:5-8, this is a difficult teaching, but completely necessary for us to practice Biblical fellowship. We must realize that the love of God is conditional.
- ▶ Isaiah 5:20,  
“*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*”

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