

“The Requirement of Fellowship”

1 John 2:3-11

Introduction

Take a moment to reflect on your experience with childhood education. Do you recall the years when fulfilling prerequisites was an obligation to advance to the next grade? Similarly, God has established requirements for believers who want to experience intimacy with Him on a new level. Our fellowship with Him is rooted in our obedience to applying His commands in our lives. The greatest one is love.

To experience more of God’s intimacy, we must first understand the commandment of love. Love is the decision to compassionately, righteously, and responsibly seek the well-being of another. It is not an emotion but a conscious decision; we are even required to extend this love to our enemies. As we love our neighbors, God will reveal Himself to us so we get to know Him and not merely recognize Him. So, you can know about somebody but not really know them. God wants us to know Him.

God makes it clear that fellowship is a family affair. Think about love within a nuclear family. Parents desire their children to love their siblings just as they love their kids and each other. Similarly, how we operate within the family of God matters to the head of the family, the Father. When we fail to love our brothers and sisters in Christ we disobey His commandment. If we indulge in hate, we will not experience the presence of God in our lives. God desires to work for us, in us, and through us, but we must learn to live in His light, and a great way to start is to obey His command to love.

Getting Started

1. What are some ways love is displayed to others in our world today?
2. How is God’s definition of love different from the world’s definition of love?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Do you find it difficult to obey the commandment of God to love Him and your neighbor?
2. How do you express love to your loved ones?
3. How do you express love to your enemies? What is most challenging for you?

Take the Next Step

1. Are you lovingly engaging with others? If so, how are you seeing God’s presence manifest in your daily life? If you are not, how can you start obeying the Lord by loving others?
2. How can you encourage someone who is not engaging with others in love according to God’s command? How can you draw them towards God’s presence with your testimony?

3. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the following passages: Jeremiah 19:18; Romans 14:1-23; Romans 12:9-10; Romans 13:8-10; John 14:7-9; John 14:21-23; John 15:1-16; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 13:34-35

Renew Your Mind

“Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.”

1 John 2:7
