LIVING UNDER THE UNIQUE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST AND IN THE UNIQUE DIVINE FELLOWSHIP

(Saturday—Evening Session)

Message Six
The Fellowship of Life

Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:2-9; 2:27; 4:8, 16; 2 Cor. 13:14

1 John 1:2 (And the [1a]life was [2b]manifested, and we have seen and [c]testify and report to you [3]the [d]eternal life, which was [4e]with the [5]Father and was [6]manifested to us);

1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:4 And these things we write that [1]our [2a]joy may be made full.

1 John 1:5 [1]And this is the [a]message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that [2]God is [3b]light and in Him is no [4]darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we [1]have fellowship [2]with Him and yet [3]walk in the [a]darkness, we [4b]lie and are not [5]practicing the [6]truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we [1]do not have sin, [2]we are deceiving ourselves, and the [3a]truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9 If we [1a]confess our sins, He is [2b]faithful and [c]righteous to [d]forgive us our [e]sins and [3f]cleanse us from all [4g]unrighteousness.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the [1]anointing which you have received from [2]Him [3]abides in you, and you have [4]no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing [5a]teaches you concerning [6]all things and is [7]true and is not a [b]lie, and even as it has taught you, [8]abide in Him.

1 John 4:8 He who [a]does [1]not love has not [b]known God, because God is [2c]love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have [a]believed the [1]love which God has [2]in us. God is [3]love, and he who [4]abides in love [5]abides in God and [6]God abides in him.

2 Cor 13:14 The [1a]grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the [b]love of God and the [c]fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

I. "We…report to you the eternal life…that which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ"—1 John 1:2-3:

1 John 1:2 (And the [1a]life was [2b]manifested, and we have seen and [c]testify and report to you [3]the [d]eternal life, which was [4e]with the [5]Father and was [6]manifested to us);

1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

A. The life of God is the source of the fellowship of life—this fellowship comes from the life of God, its existence is due to the life of God, it is derived from the life of God, and it is brought to us by the life of God.

B. The meaning of the fellowship of life is the *flowing* of life:

1. Once we believe in the Lord and receive the eternal life, which was reported to us, it brings its fellowship of life, its f low of life, to us, that there may be a fellowship, a f low, between us and God.
2. The life of God that we receive is neither only partial nor whole (but both partial and whole) because it is f lowing; this can be illustrated by the f low of the water of life in the New Jerusalem and also by the f low of electricity and by the f low of blood in our physical body—Rev. 22:1.

Rev 22:1 And [1]he [a]showed me a [2b]river of [3c]water of life, bright as [4d]crystal, [e]proceeding out of the [5f]throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its [6g]street.

C. The fellowship that we have through the entering into us of God's life is of two aspects:

1. Vertically, our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ; this fellowship carries God Himself and all His riches into us for our sharing and partaking—1 John 1:3, cf. v. 6.

1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we [1]have fellowship [2]with Him and yet [3]walk in the [a]darkness, we [4b]lie and are not [5]practicing the [6]truth;

2. Horizontally, our fellowship is with the apostles and with the church, which the apostles represent; this means that we have fellowship with all those who possess the life of God—Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 12:28; 1 John 1:7.

Acts 2:41 Those then who received his word were [1]baptized, and there were [a]added on that day about three [b]thousand souls.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the [1]teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the [a]breaking of bread and the [b]prayers.

1 Cor 12:28 And God has [a]placed some in the [1b]church: first [2c]apostles, second [3d]prophets, third [4e]teachers; then [5f]works of power, then [6]gifts of [g]healing, [7]helps, [8h]administrations, *various* kinds of [9i]tongues.

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

3. In this vertical and horizontal fellowship there is the mingling of the Triune God with all the redeemed saints; in other words, the fellowship eventually consummates in the oneness of the Triune God with the Body of Christ.

II. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all"—2 Cor. 13:14:

A. The fellowship of life, which is in and through the Holy Spirit, becomes our life experience and spiritual reality only when we live in the Holy Spirit and follow the Holy Spirit—Gal. 5:25; Rom. 8:14; Phil. 3:3.

Gal 5:25 If we [1]live by the Spirit, let us also [2a]walk by the Spirit.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are [1]led by the [2]Spirit of God, these are [3a]sons of God.

Phil 3:3 For we are the [1a]circumcision, the ones who [2]serve by the Spirit of God and [b]boast in Christ Jesus and [3]have no confidence in the [4c]flesh,

B. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is the transmission, the communication, of the grace of Christ with the love of God the Father; this fellowship is the transmission of the divine riches of the processed and consummated Triune God into our being.

C. The entire church life depends upon the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; the current, the fellowship, of the Divine Trinity within us, as revealed in 2 Corinthians 13:14, is our spiritual pulse.

2 Cor 13:14 The [1a]grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the [b]love of God and the [c]fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

III. The fellowship of life is carried on by the Spirit in our regenerated spirit; hence, it is also called the "fellowship of spirit"—Phil. 2:1:

Phil 2:1 [1]If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any [2a]consolation of love, if any [b]fellowship of spirit, if any [3c]tenderheartedness and [d]compassions,

A. Our spirit is the location of the fellowship of life.

B. If we are apart from our spirit or outside of our spirit, right away our contact with one another becomes a kind of social association that is no longer the fellowship of life.

IV. The function of the fellowship of life is to supply us with all the riches of the divine life:

A. A good picture of this is the f lowing of the water of life in the New Jerusalem with the tree of life—Rev. 22:1-2a.

Rev 22:1 And [1]he [a]showed me a [2b]river of [3c]water of life, bright as [4d]crystal, [e]proceeding out of the [5f]throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its [6g]street.

Rev 22:2a And on this [a]side and on that side of the river was the [1b]tree of life, producing twelve [2c]fruits, yielding its fruit [3]each [4]month; …

B. Furthermore, John 15:4-5 says that we abide in the vine and that the vine abides in us; this abiding supplies us with the life-juice of Christ, the riches of the life of Christ.

John 15:4 [a]Abide [b]in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit [1]of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears [a]much fruit; for apart from Me you can do [b]nothing.

V. We need to care for the following responsibilities of a believer toward the fellowship of life:

A. We must continue steadfastly in the fellowship of life—Acts 2:42.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the [1]teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the [a]breaking of bread and the [b]prayers.

B. We must obey the teaching of the anointing—1 John 2:27.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the [1]anointing which you have received from [2]Him [3]abides in you, and you have [4]no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing [5a]teaches you concerning [6]all things and is [7]true and is not a [b]lie, and even as it has taught you, [8]abide in Him.

C. We must walk in the light—1:7.

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

D. We must confess our sins, taking Christ as our sin offering for the sin in our nature and as our trespass offering for the sins in our conduct—vv. 7-9.

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we [1]do not have sin, [2]we are deceiving ourselves, and the [3a]truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9 If we [1a]confess our sins, He is [2b]faithful and [c]righteous to [d]forgive us our [e]sins and [3f]cleanse us from all [4g]unrighteousness.

VI. We must see and realize the following results of the fellowship of life:

A. We obtain the enjoyment of the Triune God—v. 4.

1 John 1:4 And these things we write that [1]our [2a]joy may be made full.

B. We obtain the light of God—vv. 5-7.

1 John 1:5 [1]And this is the [a]message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that [2]God is [3b]light and in Him is no [4]darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we [1]have fellowship [2]with Him and yet [3]walk in the [a]darkness, we [4b]lie and are not [5]practicing the [6]truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

C. We obtain the cleansing of the blood—v. 7.

1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

D. We have the Lord abiding in us—John 15:4-5.

John 15:4 [a]Abide [b]in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit [1]of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears [a]much fruit; for apart from Me you can do [b]nothing.

E. We bear much fruit to glorify God—v. 8.

John 15:8 In this is My Father [1a]glorified, that you bear much fruit and *so* you will become My [b]disciples.

VII. The fellowship of life is realized by the sense of life and is preserved by the sense of life—Rom. 8:6.

Rom 8:6 For [1]the mind set on the flesh is [2]death, but [3]the mind set on the spirit is [a]life and [b]peace.

VIII. Our relationship of life with God can never be broken (John 10:28-29), but it is possible for our fellowship with Him to be broken by sins, by disobedience, by not caring for the sense of life, or by not following the inner anointing.

John 10:28 And I give to them [1a]eternal life, and they shall by [b]no means perish forever, and no one shall [c]snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all, and no one can [a]snatch *them* out of My [1]Father's hand.

IX. We can recover our life fellowship with the Lord by confessing our sins; the cleansing of the blood of Jesus the Son of God solves the problem of separation from God, the problem of guilt in our conscience, and the problem of accusations from Satan, thus enabling us to have a daily life full of God's presence—1 John 1:9; Psa. 103:1-4, 12-13; 32:1-2; Rev. 12:10-11.

1 John 1:9 If we [1a]confess our sins, He is [2b]faithful and [c]righteous to [d]forgive us our [e]sins and [3f]cleanse us from all [4g]unrighteousness.

Psa 103:1 Bless Jehovah, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Psa 103:2 Bless Jehovah, O my soul; And do not forget all His benefits:

Psa 103:3 He pardons all your iniquities; He heals all your diseases;

Psa 103:4 He redeems your life from the pit; He crowns you with lovingkindness and compassions;

Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psa 103:13 As compassionate as a father is toward his children, So compassionate is Jehovah toward those who fear Him.

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven; Whose sin is covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man to whom Jehovah does not impute iniquity And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the [1a]kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the [2]accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who [b]accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 And [1]they [a]overcame him because of the [2b]blood of the [c]Lamb and because of the [3]word of their testimony, and they [4d]loved not their soul-life even [5e]unto death.

X. As we remain in the fellowship, the enjoyment, of God as the eternal life, we partake of God in His divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4)—as Spirit, love, and light; Spirit is the nature of God's person (John 4:24), love is the nature of God's essence (1 John 4:8, 16), and light is the nature of God's expression (1:5):

2 Pet 1:4 [1]Through [2]which He has granted to us precious and [3]exceedingly great [a]promises that through [4]these you might become [b]partakers of the divine nature, [5]having [c]escaped the [6]corruption which is in the [d]world [7]by [e]lust.

John 4:24 [1]God is [2]Spirit, and those who [3]worship Him must worship [a]in [4]spirit and [5]truthfulness.

1 John 4:8 He who [a]does [1]not love has not [b]known God, because God is [2c]love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have [a]believed the [1]love which God has [2]in us. God is [3]love, and he who [4]abides in love [5]abides in God and [6]God abides in him.

1 John 1:5 [1]And this is the [a]message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that [2]God is [3b]light and in Him is no [4]darkness at all.

A. If we spend an adequate amount of personal time with the Lord and remain in the fellowship with Him daily and hourly, we will enjoy the Lord as the Spirit, and we will become persons who are full of the divine love (the inner substance of God) and the divine light (the expressed element of God)—v. 3; 2 Cor. 13:14:

1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 13:14 The [1a]grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the [b]love of God and the [c]fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. The divine love is God Himself poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit to be the source for our enjoyment of the dispensing of the Triune God and the motivating power within us, so that we may more than conquer all our circumstantial situations—Rom. 5:5; 8:37, 39.

Rom 5:5 And hope does not put *us* to shame, because the [1a]love of God has been [b]poured out in our [c]hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we [1]more than conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the [1a]love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. The divine light is the divine life in the Son operating in us; this light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it—John 1:4-5; 1 John 1:5.

John 1:4 In Him was [1a]life, and the life was the [2b]light of men.

John 1:5 And the [a]light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

1 John 1:5 [1]And this is the [a]message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that [2]God is [3b]light and in Him is no [4]darkness at all.

B. When we enjoy God by touching God and by being infused with God in the divine fellowship, we walk, live, move, and have our being in His Spirit as our person, in His love as our essence, and in His light as our expression for us to be His corporate testimony—Rom. 8:4; Eph. 5:2, 8; Matt. 5:14-16.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be [1]fulfilled in us, who do not [2a]walk according to the flesh but according to the [3]spirit.

Eph 5:2 And [a]walk in [1b]love, even as [2]Christ also [c]loved [3]us and gave Himself up for us, an [4]offering and a [d]sacrifice to God for a [5e]sweet-smelling savor.

Eph 5:8 For you were [a]once [1b]darkness but are now [c]light [d]in the Lord; [2e]walk as [3f]children of light

Matt 5:14 You are the [1a]light of the world. It is impossible for a [2b]city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

Matt 5:15 Nor do *men* light a [a]lamp and place it under the [1]bushel, but on the [2b]lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house.

Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light [a]shine before men, so that they may see your [1b]good works and [2c]glorify your [3]Father who is in the heavens.