

I. **The importance of getting along and Fellowshiping with other missionaries.**

- A. Christian Fellowship is when we strive to:
1. Exhibit the Love of Christ to all Believers.
 2. Encourage believers in their walk with the Lord
 3. We follow several scriptural guidelines.
 - a. The **“LOVE”** guideline of Christian Fellowship is: *John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*
 - (1) It should be clear to all men that our Love for one another will indicate our brand.
 - b. The **“PEACE”** guideline of Christian Fellowship *Romans 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”*
 - (1) Live Peaceably as a peacemaker with every one.
 - c. The **“COMMUNICATION”** Guideline of Christian Fellowship. *Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*
 - (1) Communication is a choice; you permit it to happen.
 - (a) Will it build him up?
 - (b) Will it bless his life?
 - (c) Will it benefit those who will hear me say it?
 - d. The **“FORGIVENESS”** Guideline of Christian Fellowship. *Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*
 - (1) Gracious – Well Compassioned – Frankly Forgive – Live in light of the Example.
 4. Christian Fellowship is a base level of fellowship that permits me to have friends among all believers.
 - a. It is the first level of getting along with others.
 - b. It is above associations with the world. *Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*
 - c. I would interpret this fellowship as Christian Civility.
 - (1) Polite and courteous.
 - (2) Galatians 6:10 *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*
 5. This fellowship ends outside of the door of your church.

6. This fellowship occurs solely based on the doctrine of salvation.
- B. Ecclesiastical Fellowship is a fellowship based strictly along the lines of Bible Doctrine.
1. Ecclesiastical Fellowship affects Churches and Church Leaders
 2. The standard for Ecclesiastical Fellowship is MUCH higher than Christian Fellowship.
 - a. Instead of ALL believers, it is all that believe the book as we do.
 - b. It is not a fellowship of just nomenclature. (I.e. only Independent Baptists with Independent Baptists.) It is more of like faith and order with like faith and order.
 - c. It is a fellowship of doctrinal assents and practices.
 3. Ecclesiastical Fellowship does not permit the tidal wave of popular teachers and fad movements to determine the need and strength of the walls protecting this fellowship.
 4. When I have Ecclesiastical Fellowship with someone it comes based on whether they believe as I believe. Then on that basis we can work together for the cause.
 5. Do not confuse Ecclesiastical Fellowship with Methodical or Philosophical Fellowship. Many times, we may have Ecclesiastical Fellowship with those who maintain a different philosophy or method of ministry than I.
 - a. I have a Bus Route and we give out candy.
 - b. I have a bus route and we do not give out candy.
 6. These areas are my inflexible guidelines for Ecclesiastical Fellowship.
 - a. The Tri-Unity of God.
 - b. The Divinity of Christ.
 - c. The Holy Spirit's power and working.
 - d. The Place of Angels
 - e. The depravity of Man.
 - f. The Infallibility and Inerrancy of Scriptures.
 - (1) In the Textus Receptus equivalent for Non English speaking people.
 - (2) In the King James Bible for English Speaking People.

“Quotes to help in Fellowship”

David Baughn – “I am not going to make my decisions in the ministry be based on friendship, but rather on scripture.”

Danny Whetstone “Since when do people caring have anything to do with my responsibility?”

Ralph Taylor When handling an issue of ministry, marriage or managing ...
“Talk with the person under three guideline:

1. Do I have the right spirit?
2. Is this the right time?
3. Is this the right place?

- g. Salvation by grace through faith alone.
 - h. The Virgin Birth of Christ
 - i. The Finished work of Calvary
 - j. The Bodily Resurrection of Christ.
 - k. The Eminence of Christ's return.
 - l. The Autonomy of the Local Church.
7. You may have many missionaries of varied stripes on your field.
- a. You may have Christian Fellowship with them but you may have to end it there.
 - b. You may have to draw lines of exclusion.
8. Do not become confused, nor allow your eyes to blur, about Christian Fellowship and Ecclesiastical Fellowship.
- a. The tide today is shifting to allow the rules for Christian fellowship to take the place of the rules for ecclesiastical fellowship.
 - (1) Never be swayed by Friends on the other side.
 - (2) Never be swayed by Popular trends
 - b. Potentially you may harm your ministry but dropping your guard in one of these areas.
 - c. This is position is not designed to be divisive but pure in His eyes.
- C. Discerning when I should get along; and when should I get a long way off.
1. When Should I get along?
- a. In Christian Fellowship:
 - (1) With all who believe in the Death burial and Resurrection of Christ.
 - (2) With those who are of the household of Faith.
 - b. In Ecclesiastical Fellowship: Romans 16:17-18
 - (1) When there are NO divisions in Doctrine.
Division -- disunion, i.e. (fig.) dissension: division, sedition.
 - (2) When there are NO offences in Doctrine.
A trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (fig. Cause of displeasure or sin): --occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumbling block.
 - (3) (Romans 16:17-18) *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. {18} For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."*

2. When should I get a LONG way off?
 - a. In Christian Fellowship –
 - (1) When the unrepentant believer is under discipline of his church.
 - (2) When the believer turns away with only a form of godliness.
 - (3) When the Believer becomes the enemy of the cross.
 - (4) (Philippians 3:17-19) *“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. {18} (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: {19} Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”*
 - b. In Ecclesiastical Fellowship.
 - (1) When there is NO obedience to the Doctrine in the Word.
 - (a) Note them.
 - (b) Have no Company with him.
 - (c) Admonish him
 - (d) Do not hate him
 - (e) (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15) "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. {15} Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."
 - (2) When you find there is a Brother walking out of order with the Word.
 - (a) Withdraw – until he comes back
 - (b) Separation is NOT your goal. Harmony is the goal.
 - (c) (2 Thessalonians 3:6) *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”*

II. Interrelationships with fellowships, groups, churches and other denominational churches

- A. Inter-Relationships with Fellowships.
 1. Consult guidelines for fellowship above.

2. Special Notes:
 - a. Always consult with your Pastor for his leadership in this area for your ministry.
 - b. Many fellowships today started because men of like faith and order wanted:
 - (1) A College to train their kids.
 - (2) A Place to send out their Missionaries.
 - (3) A place to meet and have regular fellowship together.
 - c. Many Fellowships fall under the 25-year Principle that affects many Christian Groups. That principle teaches that an organization has about 25 good years before it loses its effectiveness.
 - d. Some Fellowships are:
 - (1) World Baptist Fellowship
 - (2) Baptist Bible Fellowship.
 - (3) Independent Baptist Fellowship.
 - (4) These have split off each other and will do so repeatedly as men seek to take stands that are stronger.
 - e. Beware: There is such a denominational tendency that exists amongst these groups.
- B. Inter-Relationships with Groups.
 1. Consult guidelines for fellowship above.
 2. Special Notes:
 - a. Always consult with your Pastor, for his leadership in this area, for your ministry.
 - b. Remember Christ started the church. If the group operates beyond or apart from the authority of the church you should have no part of it.
- C. Inter-Relationships with Churches.
 1. Consult guidelines for fellowship above.
 2. Special Notes:
 - a. Always consult with your Pastor, for his leadership in this area, for your ministry.
 - b. The name Baptist in other places around the world may not mean what you know it to mean.
 - c. We have not always been called Baptist. However, our doctrine has always been the same. Look at their Doctrine for basis of ecclesiastical fellowship.
- D. Inter-Relationships with Denominations.
 1. Consult guidelines for fellowship above.
 2. Special Notes:

- a. Always consult with your Pastor, for his leadership in this area, for your ministry.
- b. Steer Clear.