

## Fellowship: Abide

The Bible is the answer book for life. Throughout history throughout the world, philosophers have come up with answers that are based on human viewpoint, and either reject God or minimize God's importance to life. But philosophers still have many questions concerning life for which they do not have satisfactory answers. Where did we come from? What is our purpose? What happens when we die? The Bible answers all these questions, and more. The big one that gives many pause in their thinking is "What happens when we die?" Some people keep putting off seeking a solution till the end of their lives. Some believe on their "deathbed."

In our study of Romans, we came to the topic of the spiritual life. We were studying the transition between sin in our Christian lives and the abundant life in fellowship with God. We are on a detour concerning fellowship.

Two weeks ago we looked at the word for fellowship. We saw that the Greek word comes over into English in at least three different words: sharing, participation and partnership.

Last week we saw that Paul uses words prefixed with "with" or "συν" in the Greek. We do things with Jesus. These include death, burial, resurrection, life and eventually glorification. The important one for our study is "life."

John uses a different vocabulary. He uses the Greek word for fellowship. He parallels that word with "walk," "knowing," and "abiding." We will concentrate this week on "abiding." This lesson is minimal in scope. It is just enough to whet your appetite.

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1 John 2:1-11

**Knowing** is used of a believer having reached a certain stage of maturity. Jesus was astonished that Philip, who was a believer, did not know Jesus. Knowing God depends upon maturity. Fellowship depends upon maturity. It is not possible for a baby to have much fellowship with its parents. It takes time to learn.

**John 14:8 Philip \*said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”**

**John 14:9 Jesus \*said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

Parents can attempt to teach their children many lessons needed to deal with challenges in life. But they take time for them to take hold of the child's thinking.

**Walking** is used of the way a person orders his or her life. John uses it in a parallel to fellowship.

**1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**

**1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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**1 John 2:1-11**

As Paul tells us,

**2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—**

**2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.**

Abide is used many times by the apostle John. In the Greek, “μενω” means remain, stay, abide, endure, among other similar words<sup>1</sup>. It can also mean to live<sup>2</sup>. Something to keep in mind as we go through this study is that these may seem to be “static” verbs. Certainly abiding in fellowship should be something that continues for a long time. But living is something dynamic. Our lives are filled with daily activities. If we stay in fellowship we can have many blessings, even in spite of constant suffering. As always, it depends upon our mental attitude of faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Robby Dean says that the epistle of 1 John is John’s “...commentary on what Jesus taught in the Upper Room Discourse.”<sup>3</sup> Perhaps that is obvious to some. I found it very insightful.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://biblehub.com/greek/3306.htm>

<sup>2</sup> F Wilbur Gingrich and Bauer, W. (1957). *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

<sup>3</sup> <https://deanbibleministries.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-john-menuitem/message/2000-1john-020/listen> (transcribed from the audio).

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1 John 2:1-11

**1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

Rather than quote several different passages, let us read 1 John 2:1-11 to see how John develops this idea of fellowship.

**1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

Shades of Paul in Romans 6. Do not sin.

**1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.***

**Propitiation.** Satisfaction. God gets satisfaction from Jesus work on the cross.

**1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

Remember the important commandments. They involve faith dependence on the Holy Spirit resulting in following the Christian code of conduct: love.

**1 John 2:4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His**

**commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;**

**1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:**

Commandments and His word are put in parallel. Scripture contains Christ's commandments to believers.

**1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

Abides and walk are placed in parallel. We are to walk using the same principles that energized Jesus' life. Bible doctrine plus filling of the Holy Spirit.

**1 John 2:7 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 2:8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.**

**1 John 2:9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.**

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**1 John 2:1-11**

How many times have I said that hatred is wrong. Here is a reference for that statement.

**1 John 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.**

Walking, abiding, loving.

**1 John 2:11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

Let us shift to the second part of the lesson.