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In And Out Of

FELLOWSHIP

Most believers don't have a problem with the fact that we are **saved** by grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) 8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

Notice the tense here *“you **have been** saved.”* For the believer it is a done deal – we are saved. Not going to be someday but here and now we are saved. Something that is saved is not lost. It isn't saved for a while and then lost for a while. It's saved! Kept, rescued, preserved.

Fellowshp:

The dictionary defines *fellowship* like this: *the state or relation of being or associate. Companionship of persons on equal and friendly terms; frequent and familiar intercourse.*

The Word says we **have** *“fellowship”* with God.

1 John 1:3-4 (MSG) 3 *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have **fellowship with us**: and truly **our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.** 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*

We have *“companionship on equal and friendly terms”* with each other and with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Think about that, we have a “*state of relationship*” with the God of the universe!

The reason we have that is because we have been made His children by having accepted Jesus as our Lord.

This is a state of position. Where some folks have the problem, is with the day-to-day fellowship. They feel that we can go in and out of fellowship with God.

Adam enjoyed daily fellowship with God. The only thing that got in the way of that fellowship was sin. Sin is also the only thing that can get in the way of our having fellowship with God.

Sin is not to be taken lightly. It is evil! It is treason against God! It brings death!!!!

Romans 6:23 (KJV) “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Here is the good news.

Sin has been dealt with. It’s been taken away. Now what we have left is eternal life!

1 John 2:1b-2 & 12 (MSG) “...we have a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father: Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus. 2 When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, **he solved the sin problem for good**--not only ours, but the whole world's. 12 I remind you, my dear children: Your sins **are forgiven** in Jesus' name.”

**The one thing that could possibly stand in the way
of having fellowship, which is sin, has been
dealt with once and for all!!!**

In our day-to-day living the believer will sin. That's not a surprise to you is it? So does that mean that every time you sin you are out of fellowship with God? Does it mean that when you go and "ask for forgiveness" you are then back into fellowship with God?

Sin was not just a light matter that would put us temporarily out of fellowship with God. It was a death sentence! If sin was such a light matter that all that you and I had to do was to just go and ask to be forgiven each time in order to get back into fellowship, then Jesus needn't have bothered to give His life for us. He needn't have died for us. We could just simply go and ask God to forgive us and suddenly we'd be back into fellowship with the Father again.

The fact is we have total uninterrupted fellowship with God! God doesn't just turn around in his swivel chair every time we sin and face the other way until we get around to talking him into forgiving us. No – He is always toward us. That's why John wanted to share that good news saying: "*that your joy may be full.*"

**What happens while
we are sinning?**

The question might come to mind "what happens while we are sinning, does God just take a little nap until we get done with it?"

You may be functioning IN sin but you are still IN Christ. An example of that would be the Lost Son that Jesus talked about in Luke 15. All the time that the son was out in the world acting in

sin, he was still his father's son. He never stopped being his son. He was always in the thoughts of the father.

We are always sons of God.

1 John 3:2 *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

We all want to stay out of sinful actions. The best way to do that is to consider who you are “in Christ.” If you think you are a sinner, one who goes in and out of fellowship with God and that He just leaves you out to dry until you make it right, you will never appreciate the freedom of being set free from sin.

We will behave in the manner of what we believe ourselves to be. You tell a child that he is bad and he will act badly even though he is your child. You tell him you love him unconditionally he will then want to act in a manner that is pleasing.

God knows that we will struggle with sin, so He has forgiven it all in advance. Now He lives within us so that we will be empowered to live like the righteous people He has made us.

We are loved, accepted, forgiven and set free!

We are “in Christ Jesus” and Jesus never gets out of fellowship with the Father and so we can't and don't either.

We can rest knowing that we are **set free** from the possibility of ever being out of fellowship with God.