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### **The Believer's Position In Fellowship #7**

At times young believers walk in condemnation, uncertain about their acceptance before God due to particular sins of their past and therefore are not enjoying their fellowship in the gospel.

1. Satan, others and myself will always condemn me at one time or another.
2. Learn to distinguish between condemn and conviction, condemnation is rubbing your nose in sins that have been forgiven, conviction is the Holy Spirit of God dealing with me over sin I am involved in to repent.

Yet the Scriptures are clear in that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, they are new creature. Rom. 8:1, 2Cor. 5:21

1. God has made us whiter than snow! Ps. 51:7
2. Grace and mercy has been given to us, knowing that we are but dust! Ps. 103:14

Therefore every believer needs to know what the scriptures say about our position in the fellowship of Christ, in order that each of us may live in the peace of God, the joy of the Spirit and the assurance of our salvation in the Son.

\* I never doubt my salvation, knowing it is a gift of God and I am changed man by transformation!

There is some basic wise counsel given to us in the book of Acts for every believer that comes to Christ, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts. 2:42

We want to look at the believer's position in fellowship through a three-fold lens.

- I. The believer's position is in Christ.
- II. The believer's position is that of a son.
- III. The believer's position is to be lived out.

#### **I. The believer's position is in Christ.**

\* The phrase "in Christ" is the key to the believer's life and it appears in the epistle of Ephesians 27 times.

##### **A. The believer's position is based on grace and faith. Eph. 2:8**

1. Grace is God's unmerited favor and undeserved.
2. Faith is belief and trust in the revelation of God's word to save me in the person of Christ.

\* The Bible tells us that there is none good, none seek after God, there is not one good, Jew and Gentile. Rom. 3:11-12

##### **B. The believer's position is based on godly repentance towards God. 2Cor. 7:9-10**

1. Godly repentance results in a change of mind and heart about God is, sin and self.
2. Sorrow and remorse for one's sins and wrong is concerned only with the consequences without any thought of repentance, producing death.  
\* Peter repented while Judas had remorse!

C. The believer's position is based on the complete work of Christ. Jn. 19:30

1. God made Jesus to be our substitute on the cross. 2Cor. 5:21
  - a. Jesus became sin for us, receiving the guilt and wrath of God, being the Lamb of God. Jn. 1:29
  - b. Jesus tasted death for every man and woman which resulted from sin. Heb. 2:9
2. God made us complete in Jesus. Col 2:9-10
  - a. Jesus rose from the dead showing that He conquered over death and sin. Col. 2:15
  - b. Jesus justified us before God bringing about peace with God. Rom. 5:1-2
    - 1) Death and resurrection are the payment and the receipt of sin and redemption!
    - 2) Some people live carnally, are backslidden or walk away from

Christ, others are never born-again!

3) You must abide in Christ

### **Illustration**

It would be as if someone in spite of my debts to various institutions went and paid them all and cleared up all my bad credit, and next time I went to apply for credit they told me I had an flawless record.

*The believer's position in fellowship is due to his position in Christ!*

### **II. The believer's position is that of a son.**

\* Jesus alone is the Son of God, while we are a sons and a daughters of God.

A. The believer before coming to Christ was a son of disobedience and child of wrath. Eph. 2:2-3

1. Living by and under the influence of Satan in the present world order. 2Cor. 4:4
2. Living under God's wrath, having not repented.  
\* "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." Jn. 3:36

**B.** The believer became a son of God through Christ by adoption. Gal. 4:5, Eph. 1:5

\* The word for adoption is used only by Paul and it is made up of two words.

1. The word “huios” which means a son.
2. The word “thesia” means a placing.
3. The word signifies the placing and condition of an adult genuine son, to one whom it doesn’t naturally belong.
  - a. When a child is born to you, you have no choice to rejected them but when you adopt you choose the child!
  - b. How can anyone not have a high view of their person, when God has chosen them?
4. The Lord Jesus being the Son of God is the heir, we being made sons and daughters are joint-heirs with Him. Rom. 8:17

\* When my children were small they barged in my office without knocking, knowing their position to me.

**C.** The believer as a son has fellowship with God. Eph. 2:18

1. Fellowship means communion oneness, participation, common sharing, the word is “koinonia”.
  - a. Through Jesus Christ we have access to this fellowship with God.

b. The privilege is to both Jew and Gentile.

c. The agent is the Holy Spirit.

2. Fellowship involves all three persons of the Godhead.

a. We are called unto the fellowship of God’s Son. 1Cor. 1:9

b. We are called to be in the fellowship of the Spirit. 2Cor. 13:14

c. We are called to be in the fellowship of the Father and the saints. 1Jn. 1:3

### **Illustration**

Just as a child is adopted and his name is changed, he or she then has all the rights and the privileges of a family member to enjoy each member. So we are called “Christians”.

***The believer’s position in fellowship is due to his position of a son!***

### **III. The believer’s position is to be lived out.**

\* There is to be a resemblance if you are of the same family, physically and conduct.

**A.** The believer is not to be unequally yoked. 2Cor. 6:14-18

1. We are not of the same spirit as those not born again.
2. We are not of the same nature as those who are not born again.

- 3.** We are not told cut off all contact with the world but only in intimate commitment, like boyfriend, girlfriend, marriage or business partnerships.  
 \* Boy-friend, girl-friend, engagement, business or marriage.
- a.** The Old Testament warns us of the non-believer becoming thorns and thistles to our sides.
  - b.** Dinah was defiled by Shechem's son, as she thought herself strong enough to resist.  
 \* Your wife is to be godly, if she is not godly, she will affect and influence your children.
  - c.** Solomon was drawn away from God by his pagan wives, one-thousand.
    - 1)** God is not the author of confusion!  
1Cor. 14:33
    - 2)** Your hormones are 100% pagan!
- B.** The believer is to walk in the light . 1Jn. 1:7
- 1.** Receiving a divine nature to overcome sin. 2Pet. 1:3-4
  - 2.** God's commandments are not burdensome. 1Jn. 5:3
  - 3.** God's Spirit convicts us when we sin. Jn. 16:8
  - 4.** Enoch and Noah walked with God. Gen. 5:24, 6:9

- C.** The believer confesses to the advocate when he fails in practice. 1Jn. 2:1
- 1.** The believer is continually cleansed by the blood of Christ. 1Jn. 1:7
  - 2.** The believer is forgiven because God is faithful. 1Jn. 1:9
  - 3.** The believer doesn't make sin his practice, those who do belong to the devil. Rom. 6:1-7, 13:14, Gal. 2:20, 1Jn. 3:8
  - 4.** The believer is loved so much by God that God will even take his life. 1Jn. 5:16-17, 1Cor. 11:30
- D.** The believer is to live in the assurance of his salvation. Jn. 10:2-3, 27-30
- 1.** Jesus is greater than Satan. 1Jn. 4:4, 5:12
  - 2.** Jesus is able to keep me and present me faultless. Jude 24
  - 3.** Jesus respects my free-will and I am a participant. Phil. 2:12-13
    - a.** The mysterious combination of predestination and free-will is a healthy doctrine that keeps us dependent on Christ and examining our lives, daily!
    - b.** John Wesley emphasized that in the choice between eternal life and eternal death man "has in himself the casting vote". (Wesleyan Theol. Vol. 2:672)

**Illustration**

When a child or young adult is living as his father and mother have taught him, there is joyful fellowship and peace but if they aren't, they experience guilt, broken fellowship and a lack of peace until they deal with their failure .

*The believer's position in fellowship is to be lived out !*

**Conclusion**

The believer's position in fellowship is a great privilege!

- I.** The believer's position is in Christ!
- II.** The believer's position is that of a son!
- III.** The believer's position is to be lived out!