

Lesson 8

DISCIPLESHIP

FELLOWs in a SHIP



“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1John 1:7)



Wow! All of this is God’s gift to us! Fellowship has to do with how Christians spend their time together, helping and encouraging each other. But you might as well think of it as ‘fellows in a ship’! It does help if everyone ‘gets along’ - if they all ‘row’ in the same direction - and if no one tries to ‘rock the boat’!!

When Jesus chose his disciples (we’ll call them his ‘crew’) he knew they were different enough that each one could make his own, unique contribution. But he also knew that being different would test their loyalty and commitment. This is why he said, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.” (John 13:35) As Christians our best proof is be happy under the same roof!

But some times misunderstandings arise, feelings get hurt, and wrong things are said or done.



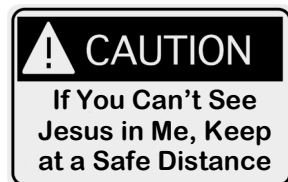
Ya gotta catch it fast! The Bible says, “...let not the sun go down on your wrath.” (Ephesians 4:26) Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount: “If you enter your place of worship and...suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God..” (Matthew 5:23,24



The Message Bible) Sounds like God is saying, “I don’t want to talk to you until you two talk it over first!”

After warning us to not “grieve the Holy Spirit” Paul tells us to “Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (**Ephesians 4:32**) Notice that the verse before says to put away ‘bitterness, wrath, anger, and evil speaking’. Ask yourself, ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ Not those!!

I wonder if it would help others if we had to go around with a sign like this. It certainly would help us to remember who we represent as we journey through this life. Paul said that you are “... a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit...” (2Corinthians 3:3 The Message Bible)



What others think about Jesus usually begins with what they think about us!! Before our Lord can welcome them ‘aboard’ they likely need to decide if they want to go ‘sailing’ with us as well. Each of you should ask yourself, ‘Do they see Jesus in me?’ Then, before you do something next, ask yourself first, “**What Would Jesus Do?**”

Memorize: **Ephesians 4:32** and **1John 1:7** as they appear in this lesson