

First Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Trinity

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

May 27, 2018

The mission of the Triune God is fellowship restoration.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- What's the first thing that came to mind? Its impact? (*invite sharing*)
- *Grace* - amazing grace - Jesus' undeserved gifts that rescue us
- *Love* - God is love. Love sent Jesus, cares for us, and seeks our good.
- *Fellowship?* We know it's a connection - a bond, but ...?
 - ♦ It summarizes the work chiefly ascribed to the Holy Spirit.
 - ♦ Fellowship with the Triune God. Fellowship with God's people.

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- Does a sermon on the Trinity and fellowship sound boring?
 - ♦ Some consider both irrelevant theological nitpicking.
 - ♦ I pray when we're done, you don't and you can help others who do.
- ❖ What is God's mission?
 - Save the lost! Yes, from what? An eternity out of fellowship with God.
 - Make disciples of Jesus Christ. Walking in fellowship with Jesus as Lord.
 - *Fellowship*: an intimate association characterized by sharing/generosity
 - The Triune God made people for fellowship with him.
 - ♦ In fellowship with the Living God we are alive, what we were made for
 - ♦ Outside of fellowship with him we are empty and broken.
 - ♦ The rebellion of sin thinks we are better off without his fellowship.
 - CW 396:2 - *We fled our God, and losing him, We lost our brother too. Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew.*
 - Sin's singleness - go it alone - isolates, erodes intimate associations
 - ♦ Prompted by pure love the Triune God pursues fellowship restoration.
 - ♦ Restored fellowship with God:
 - frees from sin's lovelessness - restores hearts of love
 - teaches us how to love and works fellowship restoration - uniquely among those in fellowship with the Triune God.
 - Goal: Full restoration of fellowship with God and all saints in glory.
 - ♦ Now: status of full fellowship with God - reconciled in Christ.
 - ♦ Taste of rich fellowship with God - word, communion, lived in prayer
 - ♦ Experience fellowship with those restored into fellowship with God.

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- Clearly this Lesson was chosen for v. 14. Why include vs. 11-13?
- Looking at the details, don't overlook the air and spirit of these words.
- ❖ Everything points to God's fellowship restoration.
 - The terms:
 - ♦ *Brothers and sisters - one another*
 - ♦ *be with you - be with you all*
 - *grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God...*
 - ♦ ¹⁹ *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. ... We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Corinthians 5
 - ♦ Under the reign/kingdom of our Lord Jesus - blessed with all his gifts
 - The Spirit works to remove all barriers to fellowship.
 - ♦ *rejoice!* Rejoicing in God's nature and work - focus, glue that bonds
 - ♦ *Strive for full restoration*, God's work of maturing, finishing.
 - Those who ignore this call let sin & lies interfere with fellowship
 - ♦ *encourage one another*, Accept Paul's instructions, be there for each other using the word to instruct, to offer hope and strength
 - ♦ *be of one mind*, Christ's mindset unites, the new mindset of repentance - turns away from self as lord, shares the revealed heart of the Triune God
 - ♦ *live in peace*. Sharing the mind and heart of Christ, conflict dissolves. *Crucify I think, I want, I need*. Pray: *Jesus I want what you know I need.*
 - fellowship with the Triune God and his word makes us whole/healthy
 - ♦ Greeting each other with expressions of our special bond in Christ
 - Celebrate our fellowship with fellow believers from afar.
 - ❖ Once you see:
 - how central and rich fellowship with God and fellow believers is and
 - how it is to be cultivated by encouraging each other to mature in Christ's word,
 - it becomes clear why it is not loving to embrace, approve of, or tolerate "*in the name of kindness*" false teachings for they interfere with fellowship with the Triune God - his mission.

A month ago we read: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* Acts 2:42 Will you? To confess the Triune God is to delight to share his mission.

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