

## WHAT IS THE TRIANGLE OF FELLOWSHIP?

1. Text: I John 1:5-7
2. This lesson will deal with the crucial issue of fellowship, especially as it relates to churches of Christ.

### I. **Describing The Triangle Of Fellowship**

1. Simply put, if you know what a triangle is you can understand Christian fellowship.
2. Notice I John 1:7 If you walk in the light and I walk in the light means we both have the correct spiritual relationship to the Lord.
3. If number 2 is true, and only if it's true, then we can have fellowship with one another. The line from me to the Lord and you to the Lord form the two vertical sides of the triangle. If they are made then the horizontal naturally follows.
4. What determines fellowship with the Lord? Birth, Beliefs, Behavior.
5. See John 3:5 for the birth (in water and the spirit) Romans 6:3 says we are baptized into Christ.
6. Romans 16:17 is an example of beliefs determining fellowship. Those that cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine you learned avoid.
7. I Corinthians 5:1-5 has an example of behavior affecting fellowship. The church is to withdraw from this immoral brother.

### II. **Detailing The Triangle Of Fellowship**

1. Fellowship is the sharing as partners in the spiritual relationship to the Lord.
2. Fellowship is often used in explaining the fellowship we have with the Lord, or the vertical lines. Philippians 3:10 speaks of "the fellowship of His sufferings." I Corinthians 1:9 says we are "called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord." I John 1:3 says "Our fellowship is with the Father and His Son." I John 1:6 "If we claim fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we're liars."
3. Fellowship is also used to explain our relationships to one another. Acts 2:42 The early church continued in fellowship. Galatians 2:9 Christians extended the right hand of fellowship. Philippians 1:5 Fellowship or partnership in the gospel. I John 1:3 What we know we share so you can have fellowship with us.
4. Warnings are given about fellowship. II Corinthians 6:14 What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? I Timothy 5:22 Don't share (or fellowship) in other people's sin. II John 11 Don't share (fellowship) in his evil deeds.

### III. **Deciding On Issues Related To The Triangle**

1. We should fellowship those in fellowship with the Lord: Complete the horizontal. I Corinthians 12:12
2. Use of word fellowship in world. Has nothing to do with the Lord.
3. Faith and fellowship? Devils believe! James 2:19
4. Illustration: Baptism. Can't do the triangle.
5. 1906-2006. What happened? Tragedy.
6. Instrumental music:
7. Advocates in the church today: Horizontal ties only.
8. I John 4:1 Try the spirits. I John 2:19 They went out from us.

Conclusion: Jude 3 The common salvation  
Titus 1:4 The common faith

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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