

Negligence Hinders Fellowship

What hinders fellowship? What does it say in 1 Jn 1:7? When are there no hindrances to our fellowship? When we collectively, all walk in the light, practicing the truth, doing what pleases Him. What happens if you do something and don't admit you are at fault — how does it effect your fellowship? Perhaps someone had a responsibility and did not fulfill their responsibility to completion. We have to think the best of them, but also, it *could* hinder your fellowship if you know they were just negligent.

[Someone was serving our table last night and they served half the table dessert and the rest of the people waited and waited until finally someone asked where that person who was serving was. "Oh, he went to sleep."]

If a person is not diligent, it seems like something in him is lacking, that he would not fulfill his mission or he did not care enough. But in community we should all fulfill our responsibility. We have to be sensitive to the needs of others. If a person had a responsibility and they were negligent, should they say, "It was me, I'm sorry, I was at fault?" We are to think the best. But there *are* things that hinder fellowship, especially when a person is guilty and they are not confessing it and so they have cut themselves off from you. You try to have fellowship, but there is a barrier there — something that hinders fellowship. It is because they are not practicing the truth on both sides. IF we were in fellowship we would be really diligent. Diligent. Before Roberto (Ishael) left, he would always go to sleep on his watch, or sit in the kitchen having a feast while the thieves were out stealing our hubcaps. You cannot have fellowship after you have done something that you know is not right. People who fake fellowship after that, eventually just leave. They don't know why, but it is because they loose fellowship — they cannot hear anything in their heart because our Father stops revealing things to their heart — they are like dead men. These things accumulate and take their toll. It is like stuffing cotton in your ears. But diligence is a man's most precious possession.

[One of the brothers repented for being negligent on his watch and falling asleep. He said he wants to watch as if he was driving the bus — with the same attention.]

In military service, in a time of war, if a watchman went to sleep they would shoot him to put fear in the others.

Because if they were negligent, the enemy could come in and destroy. In our formative years, there is leniency as we are just learning about these things — we are coming to the knowledge of the truth.

But, later on, if we continue to go on sinning and say, "Oh, no one's watching, I can just go to sleep," then that would be deliberate — then we cannot convince our Father that we are sorry — there is no sacrifice for our sin.

Many mistakes can be prevented if we have fear that we would be negligent. We all have faults and all make mistakes, but that does not mean we cannot progress. If you serve, you must do it with diligence and hospitality. If we don't care and have no fear, we won't be diligent. If you *knew* you didn't serve the whole table and walked away and went to sleep, then that was negligence. And these types of things hinder fellowship. When you remember that you have affected someone by your negligence and offended that person, you cannot make the sacrifice without going and making it right. But if I am standing and I remember that I have something against a brother (because he was negligent, for instance) and he never came to say he was sorry — something comes to your mind (Mk 11:25) and it is going to distract you and be a hindrance to your prayers, you are to forgive them anyway. "Father forgive them, I forgive them." But if the person who did something (Mt 5:23-24) knows it and does not confess it, he hinders the whole sacrifice because he is holding up his hands in hypocrisy. So you see the difference in those two verses (Mk 11:25 and Mt 5:23)? In Mt 5:23 they have something against *you* because *you* did something to them so you have to go to them before the sacrifice. But in Mk 11:25, if you remember that *they* did something against you, then you are to forgive — let it drop. The word all fits together, helping us to come to understand about the sacrifice. The Holy Spirit speaks to us, not subjectively, but in the Word. We have to live by the Word. We are justified/condemned by the Word. 1 Tim 2:8 — In the old Covenant priests always stood and lifted holy hands. Moses held up hands for a long time — as long as the battle was going on. The Amlekites (the flesh) started taking dominion

over Israel when his arms started to go down. But as long as his hands were up, Israel defeated the Amlekites. If our Master were here in physical form and we were around the throne, how would we hold our hands? We'd hold our arms straight up. Well, are we standing in front of our Master or not? What is faith anyway? We do, with faith, exactly what we would do if He were here with us physically. He is here spiritually.

1 Chr 28:30 — Every morning and every evening we stand.

Ex 29:42,38,39 — every morning and every evening we stand to offer our sacrifice *Amad* — standing man — a continual sacrifice throughout the age until the new heavens and new earth.

We have talked, before, about picking up papers you see as you walk on our street. But I don't want you to be a man pleaser and pick up paper on the street just because I'm there and then if I'm not there you would just leave it there on the street. That means you do it just to please man — not to please your Sovereign (Phil 2:12). You work while your Master's eyes are on you but when they are not, you don't work. That means we don't have real faith, and we are only working for man. So then at the judgment He'll say, "I don't know you." Let's not be man pleasers. Our Father sees in secret. We must not be like Pharisees — just doing things to be recognized — it is a subtle spirit.

What we talked about this morning is walking in the light. If you are a man pleaser, working while your earthly master's eyes are on you, you are not walking in the light as He is in the light. [We go back 20 years when many people came in. People were hitchhiking all over the country at that time. They would come in in swarms sometimes. But there was a nucleus of people, a solid core of people being built up and that is what we have today in Judah — the backbone. We had all kinds of people doing all kinds of things to hurt and damage us. But you would get a person who would jump up and mow the lawn really good — just volunteer himself. And all the other men would go in the woods. He volunteered because that was the job he wanted to do — he was enthusiastic about *that*. But he wasn't so enthusiastic about what his shepherds wanted him to do. He was exposed in due time and now he's gone. But those brothers who allowed themselves to be handled, to do that heavy work of going down and getting those logs out of the woods, they are still here — because they were subject to their leaders. Our Master says whoever is diligent and obedient in small things, He will give you greater responsibility. You start out doing things your flesh doesn't like to do, not what you did in the world. You start out in small things that you don't like to do and then you are given more responsibility and then in the kingdom, you are given five or ten cities to have responsibility over.