

Biblical Symbiosis

Text : **I John 1: 1-7 ; Romans 15: 1-7**

S#1.

A. There is a new type of assembly popping up are around this country and many others which is simply called the “Sunday Assembly.”

S#2.

1. They are in spreading around the world with great evangelistic zeal :
 - a. U.S. & Canada
 - b. UK & Europe
 - c. Australia & New Zealand
 - d. Even Africa
2. Their website describes them as :
 - a. Assemblies of action building lives of purpose, encouraging us to help anyone who needs it and to support each other.
 - b. Hearing talks, singing, listening to readings, and even playing games helps us to connect with each other and with the awesome world we live in ...

B. What denomination do you think these assemblies represent ?

S#3.

1. **None ... they are atheists.** (<https://sundayassembly.com/about/>)
2. Their website further describes them as follows : **“The assembly is ...**
 - a. Is 100% celebration of life. We are born from nothing and go to nothing. Let’s enjoy it together.
 - b. Has no doctrine. We have no set texts so we can make use of wisdom from all sources.
 - c. Has no deity. We don’t do supernatural but we also won’t tell you you’re wrong if you do.
 - d. Is radically inclusive. Everyone is welcome, regardless of their beliefs – this is a place of love that is open and accepting.

C. Why would atheists have a regular “Sunday Assembly?”

S#4.

1. They don’t worship or have a doctrine which requires a weekly assembly.
2. Some have said that they meet on Sunday to keep atheists from going to churches.
3. Their stated purpose is to **build a sense of community.**
 - a. Within the nature of man is the need for a sense of community. (**herd instinct**)
 - b. There are atheists in churches because they feel the need to be a part of a group.
 - c. People have always sought to form community ... clubs, teams, pubs, etc.

D. God created you so He knows your needs and provided ways to satisfy them.

1. Man had a need so God created woman.
2. Mankind feels an instinctive need to reproduce so God created marriage and family.
3. People feel the need for community so God purchased the church.

I. The church of Christ is an assembly of people who have been called out from among the general population by Jesus into fellowship with Him. S#5.**A. If one is a Christian, he has been called out to be like Christ.**

1. **I Pet. 1: 14-16** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." S#6.

2. The agent of Christ's calling is the message about His sacrifice to save us from sin.

II Thes. 2: 14 – It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. S#7.

B. The act of calling by means of the gospel is within itself a screening process. S#8.

1. Most of those who hear the gospel message refuse to accept it and surrender to Him.

a. **Matt. 22: 14** – For many are called, but few are chosen.

- b. **Acts 17: 32-34** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." ³³ So Paul went out of their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, S#9.

2. The same gospel will create faith in some and scorn in others.

a. **Luke 8: 4-15** ... Remember the parable of the sower. (cf- **I Cor. 1: 23-25**)

- b. **Rom. 10: 16-17** – However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. S#10.

C. Those who respond in faith are called into fellowship with Jesus the Christ.

I Cor. 1: 9 – God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. S#11.

D. When called into fellowship with Christ we are called into His community. S#12.

I John 1: 3 – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. S#13.

II. What are some of the ramifications of fellowship with God / Jesus ?**S#14.****A. In order to answer this question we must understand “fellowship.”****S#15.**

1. It is translated from the word “koinonos.”
2. It is defined as : communion, joint participation; a gift jointly contributed, the share which one has in anything, participation, a collection, a contribution,
3. It is used to describe those in a relationship : a partner, an associate, a comrade, a companion, a sharer in anything **or** as a verb to bring one into or be in relationship.

S#16.**B. To be in fellowship with Christ requires one to share common values with Him.**

1. **I John 1: 5-7** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **S#17.**

- a. We must share the common desire to lead a holy life ... light = holiness.
- b. One's “**walk**” is his lifestyle, the tenor of his life.

2. The one who will fellowship with God / Christ must seek to be in the light.

John 3: 19-21 – This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **20** " For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **21** "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." **S#18.**

- * 3. This is NOT to say that one approaches God on the basis of personal goodness.

S#19.**C. To be in fellowship with Christ requires one to share common goals with Him.**

1. **Amos 3: 3** – Do two men walk together unless they have agreed to do so? (NIV)
2. The goal of God is that all men learn the gospel and be saved.

I Tim. 2: 4 – This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **S#20.**

3. Jesus desire to save people was so strong that He sacrificed Himself to accomplish it.

Gal. 1: 3-4 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **S#21.**

4. Those who fellowship with God / Christ must share His values and His goals.

III. Those who will be in fellowship with Christ must be in fellowship with all others who are in fellowship with Him. S#22.

A. First, we must acknowledge that not everyone who thinks he/she is in a “personal relationship with Jesus Christ” actually is in fellowship w/ Him. S#23.

1. There are many religious bodies who advocate relationship without obedience.
 - a. All you have to do is ... believe, call on Him to save you, etc.
 - b. Just say this sinner’s prayer and you will be saved.
2. Many who believe they are saved and practice “Christianity” are actually lost. S#24.

Matt. 7: 21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** " Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' " (*Relationships take two people.*)

B. Those who fellowship Christ fellowship each other. S#25.

1. **I John 1: 2-3** ... the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — **3** what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. S#26.

2. Those who have fellowship with God must share a **common faith**.

- a. **Philemon 5-6** – I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints; **6** and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. S#27.

- b. **II Cor. 6: 14-15** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? S#28.

* c. *Two different worldviews prevent “commonness .. fellowship.”*

3. Unity of mind as well as unity of purpose is necessary. Paul prayed they would have a heart for fellowship. (*Mind refers to the way one interprets the world.*)

Phil. 2: 1-2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. S#29.
(*same worldview*)

IV. Thus, the scriptures clearly demonstrate that fellowship is commonness. S#30.

A. I grew up in a southern family and understood that fellowship meant a potluck meal with an abundance of food and a variety of pies. S#31.

B. Clearly the fellowship presented in the N.T. is more than food and/or assemblies.

1. Fellowship was fundamental to N.T. Christianity. S#32.

Acts 2: 42 – They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- a. Vs. 44 ... They spent time together and sought commonness.
- b. Vs. 45 ... They shared with each other. (**Tit. 3: 14 ... meet pressing needs**)
- c. Vs. 46 ... They were of one mind in daily worship and outreach. (*worldview*)
- e. Vs. 46 ... They ate together in each other's homes. (*Probably ate fig pies*)
- f. Vs. 47 ... They praised God together.

2. In Romans 15 the Apostle instructs them as to some things the fellowship includes.

a. Rom. 15: 1 – The strong ought to bear the weakness of those without strength. S#33

b. Rom. 15: 2 – Each is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

c. Rom. 15: 5 – Be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus. S#34

d. Rom. 15: 6 ... Why ... the result should be unified praise.

e. Rom. 15: 7 – Accept one another, just as Christ accepted us to the glory of God.

***** Accept = Ask others into your life ... Seek real relationships.**

S#35.

C. The assemblies are essential, but fellowship extends far beyond the assembly.

1. Fellowship requires real unity and real relationships. *Must build, not just happen.*

2. Fellowship is merging our lives into commonness. **Symbiotic relationship**

- a. It makes us comfortable with each other.
- b. We can freely discuss our faith together. **Share our doubts and fears.**
- c. We do not fear rejection or ridicule. (*Ask any question ... express what we think*)

S#36.

D. Eph 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

S#37.

Lesson Text :**I John 1: 1-7**

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — **2** and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — **3** what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Romans 15: 1-7

1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. **2** Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. **3** For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." **4** For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, **6** so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.