

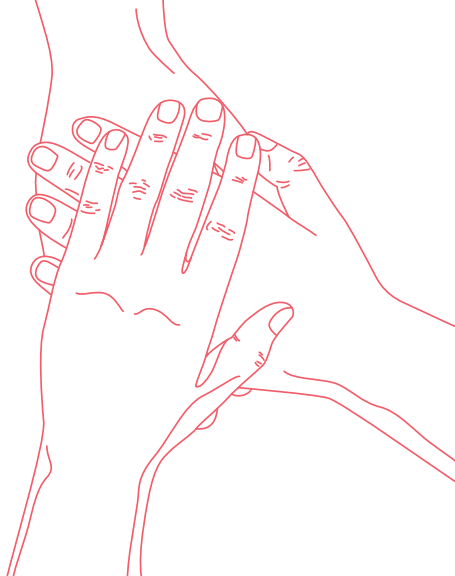
02

NEW
LIFE

OF FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST



Every Christian can experience fellowship with God moment by moment as he learns to confess sin in his life. To live in fellowship with Jesus Christ is to experience a full and abundant life.



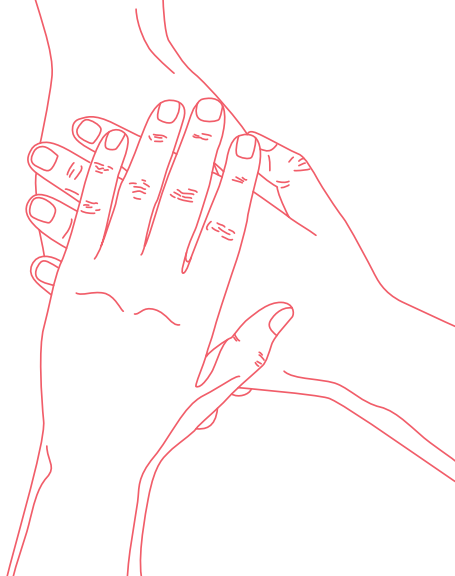
A common question that many Christians ask is,

“What happens when I sin and do things that are displeasing to God?”
“Is my relationship with Him broken?”
“Does Jesus leave my life?”

The answers to these questions can be best understood if we distinguish between our relationship to God and our fellowship with God.



When you received Jesus Christ, you established a personal relationship with Him. You became a child of God (John 1 :12). You received His life so now you bear His name “Christian.”

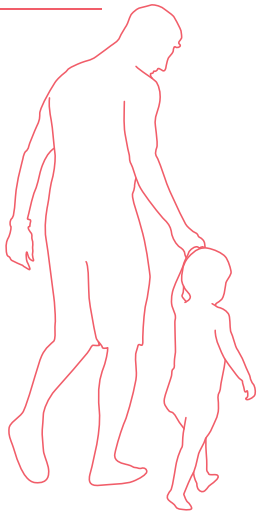


RELATIONSHIP

We can illustrate the difference between our relationship to God and our fellowship with God by the father-son relationship in a human family, he is the son of his father, because he has his father's life in him. He then bears his father's name.

Let's suppose the son decides to leave his home and does many things to disgrace his father. Is he still his father's son?

The relationship of the father and son is permanent. This relationship exists regardless of the behavior of the son.



FELLOWSHIP

However, what would happen to their fellowship? Because of the action of the son, their fellowship has been broken. What must the son do to restore their fellowship? The son must go to his father, admitting he is wrong and asking for forgiveness.

Let us relate this illustration to our relationship with God. **Our relationship with God, our Father, is permanent.** We are His children. This relationship never changes. But when we sin and do things that are displeasing to God, **our fellowship with Him is broken.** So in order for our fellowship with God to be restored, we must admit to Him that we have been wrong and accept His forgiveness.

We can illustrate the difference between our relationship and fellowship with God using three circles. Read **1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:1**.

Examine each circle to see which one has both a relationship and fellowship with God. Write the answers in the corresponding blanks.

NATURAL MAN



A How is the non-Christian described in
1 Corinthians 2:14?

Does he have a relationship with God?

Yes

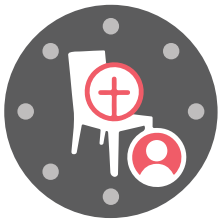
None

How about fellowship with God?

Yes

None

SPIRITUAL MAN



B How is the Christ-directed man described in
1 Corinthians 2:15?

Does he have a relationship with God?

Yes

None

How about fellowship with God?

Yes

None

CARNAL MAN



C How is the self-directed man described in **1 Corinthians 3:1?**

Does he have a relationship with God?

Yes

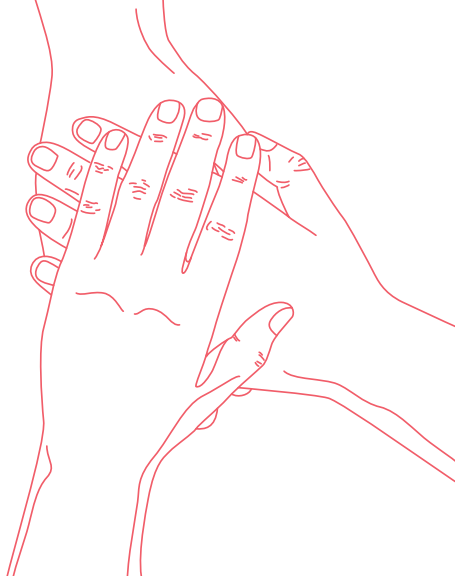
None

How about fellowship with God?

Yes

None

**The carnal man is a
Christian who is living a
self-directed life
because of sin.**



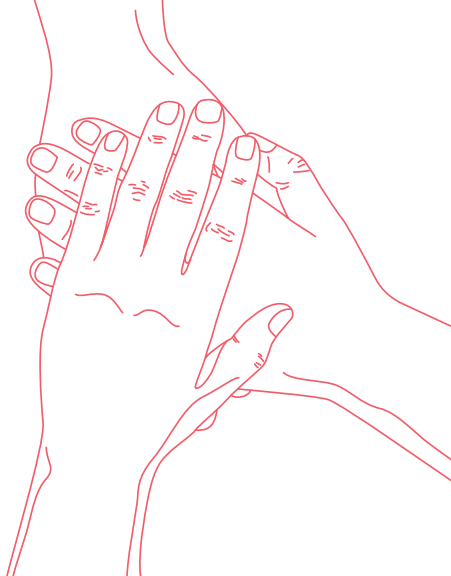
While the natural man does not have Christ in his life, Christ is in the lives of both the spiritual man and carnal man. Both of them are Christians.

Read **1 John 1:8 - 2:1**

The carnal man can restore his fellowship with God by confessing his sin. Confession involves three things:

- 1 Agreeing
- 2 Thanking
- 3 Repenting

The Christian needs to understand that when he does sin and takes over the direction of his life once again, he should immediately confess his sin and God will restore him to fellowship.

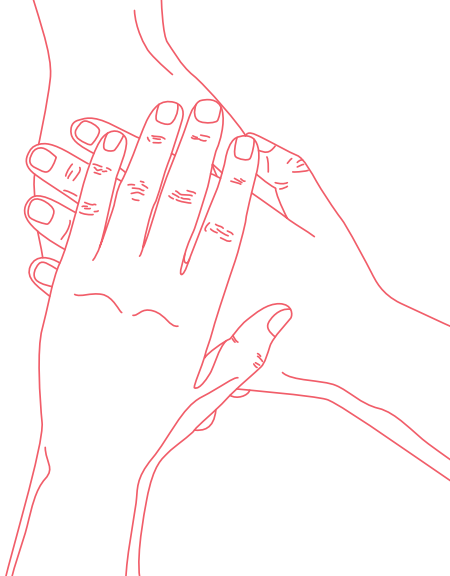


When we confess, we **AGREE** with God that what He has revealed to us is sin. We also **THANK** God that this sin has been paid for by Jesus Christ's death on the cross. Confession also involves **REPENTANCE**. Repentance is a change of attitude which will result in a change of action.



According to **1 John 1:9**, what are we to do with our sins?

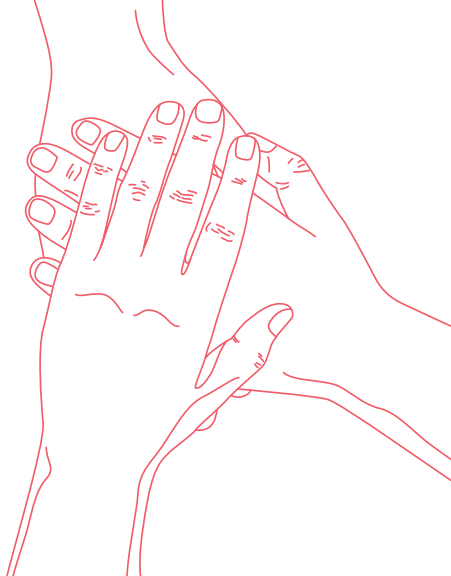
What did God promise to do when we confess our sins?



Suggested Readings:

1. 1 John 1

2. Transferable Concept No. 2
“How to Experience God’s Love
and Forgiveness”



A

1. Does not accept the things about God. The things about God are either foolish or he cannot understand them because he does not have the spirit of God in him.
2. None
3. None

B

4. He makes judgements about all things but he is not subject to any man's judgement. "What does this mean?"

Since his life is directed by Christ, he knows the value of things; he choose what is right from what is wrong. Because he is doing what is right, other people will not have a just reason to accuse him of any wrong doing.

5. Yes
6. Yes

C

7. He is "worldly" or "carnal". He is still a spiritual baby.
8. Yes
9. None

10. Confess our sins
11. Forgive us and purify/cleanse us.



A caring community passionate about
connecting people to Jesus Christ