

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## *The Benefit of Life*

**Genesis 1:26-27**, Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female **He created them**.

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What is the benefit of life?

**Relationship** – Like the Father, Son & Holy Spirit

- **NOT** the transaction of benefit
- Either **receiving** or **giving**

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How did human relationship become so distorted...

- **Evaluated by what we give or receive?**
- Adam & Eve broke relationship by choosing & acting **independently**
- Based on what they thought they could get

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**Genesis 3:5**, For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**

- **They already were like God!**
- But they sacrificed & lost relationship

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Relationship of openness & trust was broken, **first with God**...

- Then with **each other**
- **Blaming** someone else
- **Defending** themselves individually

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The relationship **OF God** has

- Nothing to **protect**...
- Nothing to **defend**, and

- No one to **blame**

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God has been working to restore it ever since

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**John 17:20-23**, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe **in Me** through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me**; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

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What do the Father and the Son expect to get from each other that they don't already have?

- **Nothing!**

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What do they **give** to each other?

- **Themselves**, completely...
- Without requirement or reservation

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What will we have to give up to live that way together...

- Nothing to lose or improve...
- **With God & each other?**
- Self interest

Do we have some examples?

- Ruth & Naomi
- Jonathan & David
- **Genesis 2**, with God before sin

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**Acts 2:42-47**, And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

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What is the true value & benefit of relationship?

- **Love**, Without risk or requirement
- It only exists when everyone involved **gives it freely**
- With no requirement for reward

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What is the greatest challenge?

- When someone we love doesn't love us in return

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What do we do then?

- Continue to love... **like God**
- **In God's image & likeness**

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How do we keep from stumbling when we're hurt?

- Continue to **receive God's love...**
  - And **love like Him**, in His behalf...
  - For the benefit of the ones we're loving...
  - **Requiring nothing** from them
- .....

What is that relationship called?

- **Peace** – of, with & for **Christ Jesus**

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**John 14:27**, "Peace I leave with you, **My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

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**John 16:33**, "These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

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**John 20:21**, So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

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**Matthew 10:8**, "Freely you have received, **freely give.**"

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**Acts 1:8**, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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The **love & peace of Jesus** isn't about **what we receive...**

- It's about **what we give**, and **why**

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**Romans 12:18**, If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace with everyone.**

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**Things To Pray & Do:**

- **Remember** you are made in God's image & likeness
- **Thank Him** & ask Him to help you live like it
- **Commit** to love first. He did (**I John 4:19**)
- **Commit** to love when they don't love you back
- **Commit** to being safe for everyone else
- **He is committed to us (Romans 5:8)**