

# Family Fellowship 3 of 4

#0508

Study Given by W.D. Frazee

We will study with you a bit more about this, this morning, this matter of fellowship between the soul and God, between the husband and the wife, between the parents and the children, between brothers and sisters, and others, who in the providence of God, the Savior has planned for us to have fellowship with.

You know friends; heaven is going to be an eternal fellowship. We're told that the loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. It's going to be a wonderful thing when we can know as we are known; when we can enter into a full understanding of mind with mind and heart with heart. This is the highest joy of heaven. But we're to have a foretaste of it here. In fact, I sometimes think of it this way that God gives us a sample of heaven here in this life if we're willing to taste it, to see if we'd like a second helping. Well I can say I want a second helping. I thank God as I look back over my life that He has blessed me with knowing something of the joy of fellowship with Him and with others here in this world. It's the thing I love most—fellowship.

A dear old friend of mine, who had been a missionary in Africa for many years, told me that one of the African natives over there said that fellowship meant two fellows in one ship. I thought he had it pretty good.

Now this morning, there are some simple but far-reaching principles concerning fellowship and love that I want to study with you. First, love is not selfishness. Well, you say, of course, everybody knows that. No, everybody doesn't know it. Almost everybody today when they talk about love, they don't mean what the Bible is talking about love. They're thinking about the selfish, gratification of personal desire.

Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate it or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. If we want to know more of love, we must know more of Him. I repeat, love is not selfishness.

Most homes today, sad to say, have been established on the foundations of the shifting sands of selfishness. Jesus said the wise man built his house on a rock, and the rock is Christ Jesus, His truth and His love. But most young people in establishing homes today, have thought only, and do think only, or largely of what do I want. I saw this represented aptly in a cartoon from the *Saturday Evening Post*. The artist had pictured a wedding. There was the bishop all dressed up. There was the bride and groom. As they stood there reciting their vows before the bishop and congregation the artist had pictured a dream of the husband in one corner. His dream was sitting in bed and his wife was

bringing him his breakfast. It was a lovely tray with the morning newspaper on it. The artist had pictured in the other corner the bride's dream. She was having breakfast in bed. Her husband was bringing it to her, and there was a flower on the tray—this was her dream.

You get the picture, don't you? And 99 out of 100 people who are getting married today have something like that, it may not be that particular dream, but the idea is that I'm going to get something out of this. I'm going to be happier than I was before because I'm going to have somebody to wait on me and do this and that for me. I'm going to find security and love and service, and it's just going to be wonderful.

You say, what's wrong with that? I say, selfishness and love is not the same thing at all. Love is not thinking about what I can get out of the relationship. Love is thinking basically, primarily of this: what can I give to the one I love? What can I do for the one for whom I care? How is this relationship going to make it possible for me to give more, to do more to the one I think so much of? This is love my friends and it is fundamental; not merely in the home, but in our relation with God.

Now I introduced to you in our opening study this precious thought, this tremendous thought, that we need God, but God needs us. I want to study it a bit with you this morning and see how it applies in our human relationship.

I need Jesus, but Jesus needs me. I want Jesus, but Jesus wants me. I have a hunger that nothing but His life can satisfy. He has a hunger that nothing but my love and fellowship can satisfy. Our views of God's thinking about us are meager. Many of them are quite childish—I do not say child-like, but childish. We think of God as somebody to run to when we're hurt—and that's good; somebody to call to when we want something—that's good. God is all that but He's infinitely more than that. He not only wants to do something for us, He wants us to do something for Him.

Let's go a little farther, I suppose that most any of us if we saw a wounded dog or stray cat we might be moved to pity. We might think, poor thing, I wonder if there's anything we can do to help it out. Some people have gotten far enough along that they think God is that interested in them, like they would a stray dog. But He's a lot more than that, not merely in degree, but in kind. God is pitiful, but He's a lot more than that.

You remember that Good Samaritan that found the wounded man by the way side. What did he do? Well, he stopped his beast and got off, he bound up the wounds of the man, poured in oil and wine. He put him on his beast and carried him to the inn. He said, Take care of him. Here is some money. Look after him. That was a wonderful deed wasn't it? It was love in action. But as far as I know the Good Samaritan never saw him again. He was kind, he was merciful, and loving, but he wasn't seeking a fellowship with that man. He had other interests somewhere else. He had done a kind deed, and this is good.

Jesus is all that, but infinitely more so. God's love for you is not just pity, sympathy, mercy, kindness. It isn't just that God is sorry for you and me, and because He's good He

reaches out to lift us out of the ditch and binds up our wounds and saves us. It's all that, but I repeat, it's infinitely more so. It is this, my friends: God wants you to be with Him, because He likes your company. He wants your fellowship. He enjoys talking with you. It pleases Him when you talk to Him. He likes to know what you think. And I'm talking about you in a singular number. Did you know this is why you were made different from everybody else? God needed you. He already had millions of angels and millions of other human beings. But there was a certain place in His mind and heart that none of those people filled. He wanted you so He made you to fill that particular need. Wouldn't it be a shame to cheat Him out of the one thing that can satisfy Him forever? Your love, your fellowship.

Ah, somebody says, I don't see how God could need me when He has got ten million others. Let me see if I can illustrate it. I see a lot of boys and girls here this morning. How many of you have a pet at home? How many of you have more than one pet? How many of you have a doggy at home? How many of you have a kitty at home? Now, one more question, how many of you have a doggy, and a kitty both? Oh, a lot of you. How come? Isn't it enough to have a kitty? What do you need a doggy for? Or, if you have a doggy, what do you need a kitty for—you just need something to play, you don't care whether it's a dog or a cat, do you? Or do you? Do you begin to see what I mean friends? You boys and girls that love dogs and kitties both, tell me, how many dozen dogs would you have to have before you'd say, "Oh, I don't care if I have a kitty or not." Do you see what I mean?

Now let's look a little higher than a doggies or kitties. You fathers and mothers here this morning, how many of you have more than one child? What do you do with so many anyway? I was in a home out west not long ago where I was holding some meetings, and a doctor and his wife had 10 children. They were doing a good job of it too. Now do you suppose that when the eighth child came along there wasn't much love left, and they had to keep it out, like the cooks do the food sometimes, do you suppose that was the way it was? Do you know what I heard the other day? That doctor and his wife, and the children, they were praying for twins. I saw the twins just the other day. Now they are an even dozen.

Of course those poor little twins, they won't get much, will they? Do you think those twins are safe, or do you think the others will so outnumber them that they'll be swamped, and if they get fed once a day, they're doing pretty well? Tell me, if God can make a human heart in this world, a father or mother, and make the capacity of that little human heart big enough to take in a dozen children, each one different from all the others, and a special love for each one, what do you think about the One who made mother, the One who made father—what do you think about Him? Do you think that it's just a wholesale proposition? That He says to the angels, well, maybe we better make 100,000 more? My dear friends, you were planned and made as if you were the only one that God ever made in this world.

Let me read something here from *Steps to Christ*. Don't try to comprehend it, but I enjoy a lot of things that I can't comprehend. Listen:

“The relations between each God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth...” *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

Think of it. Brother, stand up here will you? Suppose this man was the only man on this planet, the only person that ever had lived here, and God had made this whole world just for you. Suppose because you needed Him, and He sent Jesus down here to live for you and die you. It would look like you were quite important, wouldn't it? Well, you're just that important. You are a VIP, that's right. How many of you know what VIP means? Very important person. Now, don't you wish you were that important? The good news is that you *are*, my friends. And this isn't just something to sing about. This is the truth. Even if you didn't know it before, it is the truth. And even if you forget it now, it's still the truth. There's Somebody who thinks you're that important—and that's God. And He made you different from everybody else because there was a special need in His heart.

The need that He has isn't the need of money you can give Him. It isn't a need of service that you can perform for Him. It's fellowship, love. Love expressed in visiting with Him, and enjoying His company, and letting Him know that you know that He enjoys your company.

Tell me, were you ever with somebody that you liked to be with, but they didn't seem to know it? Their attitude showed that they thought, oh my, what did you ever come to see me for? I'm nobody, I'm not that important. Did you ever have that experience? It almost embarrassed you, didn't it?

God is embarrassed sometimes by our false humility around Him. It's all right to be humble before God; He's the great God, but He's our father. And He's employed the other human relationships as I showed you Friday night. He's not only the father, He's the husband, and He's not only the father and husband, He's a brother. And He says whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister, and mother.

Tell me, you girls, you ladies, wouldn't you like to be related to Jesus? Wouldn't you like to be His sister? Well that's what He says you are. You mother's in Israel, what about being the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ? You say that's too much. Well, turn and read it—Matthew 12:48-50:

“But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And He stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother” Matthew 12:48-50.

Are there any brothers of the Lord Jesus here this morning? Are there any sisters of the Savior here this morning? Are there any mothers of Jesus? Do you know that fellowship? Do you?

You who have your mother far away, I suppose maybe you send her a card once a year on Mother's Day. How glad she must be to hear from you after a year. Or do you call her more than once a year? I hope so. She hopes so too.

The communion between mother and child, father and children, brother and sister, friends and dear ones, oh, this is precious. But it depends upon communication. That's a long word. It means not only talking, but understanding. It means not only saying sounds; it means something that gets through to the other mind and heart—communication.

Now notice how in the home this principle is so important. *Ministry of Healing*, this wonderful inspired book says:

“Love cannot long exist without expression” *Ministry of Healing*, page 360.

Now, I'll tell you, if you repeat that, you'll remember it; but if you don't use it, you'll loose it. This is the way it is with love. Love cannot long exist without what? Expression. And so in the home there is to be the expression of love between husband and wife, between brothers and sisters, between parents and children, and other dear ones that God includes.

Listen friends, do you express love? Oh, some man says, that's kiddy stuff. That's sissy stuff. Who said that? I'll tell you who said it, the Devil said it. Isn't it strange that a big he-man if he isn't married, it's the thing for him to just express love lavishly? But when he settles down, and down it is in many a house, to the hum-drum life, oh, he may give his wife a peck on the cheek when he goes to work; if that happens to be the culture in which he was brought up. But to express love often, shall I say continually, first in one way and then in another, this is something else.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” Ephesians 5:25.

Did Jesus ever tell the church He loved it? Has He told His people that He loves them? The children sing about it—sing it with me boys and girls, and all you older boys and girls:

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Does the Bible tell us that? Well is it telling the truth, or is it a lie? What is it? It's the truth. Husbands love you wives, even as Christ also loved the church. Tell her, tell

her, and keep telling her. You wives, do it with your husbands. Tell it in words; tell it in deeds, actions, and attitude—and parents and children.

I was talking to someone in a distant state no long ago. Do you know what they told me? They told me about a girl who was living in their home from a still more distant place. And that girl, bless her young heart, there had never been any expressions of love between her and her mother. Once when she was about to leave, she almost came to the place of putting her arms around her mother and kissing her and telling her she loved her. But she couldn't quite get up the courage. There was no expression of love in the home.

Listen while I read from *Ministry of Healing*:

“There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels others. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy” *Ministry of Healing*, page 360.

Whether it is parents with children or husbands with wives, or brothers and sisters, or other dear ones, ah, beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God. Love is of God.

Now, I'm not talking about the public parading of affection. There're expressions of love that belong within the family circle and the solitude of personal communion. This leads me to the next very precious thought. It is this kind of personal communion in solitude to which our Lord is calling us with Him. Turn to the Song of Solomon 2, and you'll see what I mean:

“As the apple tree among the trees of the wood so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love” Song of Solomon 2:3-4.

Oh what a scene of fellowship and love. Alone, yet not alone, somebody I love is with me. I am with somebody I love. The 16<sup>th</sup> verse:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his” Song of Solomon 2:16.

This is fellowship.

I just read you on page 360 this warning against the lack of the expression of love. Let me read it again on page 394 of *Ministry of Healing*. Listen:

“No barrier of coldness and reserve should be allowed to arise between parents and children. Let parents become acquainted with their children, seeking to understand their tastes and dispositions, entering into their feelings, and drawing out what is in their hearts” *Ministry of Healing*, page 394.

That's quite an assignment isn't it friends? Did any of you find that your second child was different from the first? Any of you find that? And the third was different than either one of the first two? I wonder why that is, isn't that too bad? My my, we could learn something on the first one, and then put it into practice on the second one. But low, and behold, we have to learn all over again with the second and the third. Isn't that the way it is? I wonder why? Because that's the way God made people.

If you love somebody enough, you're interested in finding out what *they* are, not what somebody else is. Did you ever, either literally or mentally, shake a child, or say either out loud or in your mind, “why can't you be like other people?” Well, why indeed. If your child was just like somebody else, their value would go right down, like that. The thing that makes that child infinitely valuable is its individuality. Seek to understand your children. Don't let any barrier of coldness or reserve build up. Draw out what is in their hearts

If we'll take *Adventist Home* and *Child Guidance* and *Ministry of Healing*, and study these books on our knees we'll learn more and more how to be good parents, good children, good brothers, good sisters, and good friends. It's all in the books.

The universities of this world will never teach us how to do it. The marriage counselors, the psychologists, the psychoanalyst, and the child specialists of this world, they don't know the language of heaven. They may know something about human behavior as they observe it, but friends, I'd hate to pattern after human behavior as I observe most of it. Thank God, we have a better pattern. It is the relationship between God and the soul.

Dear husbands and wives, you can have a relationship patterned after the relationship between God and the soul. Brothers and sisters, think of it. You can be toward your brother or sister as Christ is toward His people. All are different facets seeking to teach us what fellowship is. And basic to it all is the personal fellowship of the soul with Christ.

There may be somebody here that's thinking, Brother Frazee, this is all wonderful, but it leaves me cold, or it leaves me out. I don't have any father, he's dead. Well, maybe I have a father, but he doesn't know God, and he doesn't love me. I don't have a mother, maybe she's dead, and maybe she doesn't know God, and doesn't love me. I'm not married, or if I am, it's worst than if I weren't, as far as any love is concerned. I don't have any brothers or sisters, or if I do, there's no fellowship there.

Do you see what I mean friends, there's somebody like that here this morning. I may not know your name, but I know that there's somebody like that here this, if there weren't, I wouldn't be impressed to read you the next thing I'm going to read you.

You folks who have set through all these wonderful descriptions of human relationships and feel left out in the cold, I have something for you that is the most wonderful think in this wonderful book, *Ministry of Healing*. And as I said about another sentence, don't try to comprehend it. You can just believe it, and enjoy it.

"The Lord's care is over all His creatures. He loves them all, and makes no difference, except that He has the most tender pity for those who are called to bear life's heaviest burdens. God's children must meet trials and difficulties. But they should accept their lot with a cheerful spirit, remembering that for all that the world neglects to bestow God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors" *Ibid.*, page 199.

Suppose my friend here owes the pastor \$10.00, but somehow or another he doesn't pay it—he ought to pay it, but he doesn't. Suppose I step forward and say, Brother Finley, never mind I'll make it up to you, how much am I going to give him? \$10.00, right? How much is coming to him? \$10.00. How much has he got? \$10.00. Where did he get it? He got it from me. But my point is he has it.

You don't have to go a starved orphan all you life because some human being fell down on the job. You don't have to be a discontented, restless, disillusioned husband or wife because your companion has failed to represent love. You don't have to be a discontented, restless anybody because any other person has failed to reveal love to you. God Himself will make it up to you in the best of favors—that's what this says, and I believe it friends.

Of course, you'll have to go to God. You won't find it at the night club or the dance hall. You won't get it over the TV or the radio. No. You won't get it running around feeling sorry for yourself. No. Come to Jesus. He says come to me and I'll give you rest. Bury yourself in His arms, and listen, while you're there, remember, He's just as lonesome, as you are for Him. He needs you just as much as you need Him. He may see that if you had a lot of human love, you would be so wrapped up in it that you would have precious little time or thought for God. It happens, doesn't it?

It's too bad when we get so busy enjoying the Christmas gifts that we forget the One who gave us the gift. It's too bad when we get so busy enjoying father or mother, husband or wife, brother or sister or friend that we forget the best Friend who made it all and made it for the purpose of revealing His love to us in the hope that we would seek His fellowship, not just because we need Him, but because He needs us. Do you see friends?

So there's something for everybody here this morning. If you're happily married, find in that relationship an expression of the love between Christ and His church. If you



have a father and mother who have revealed love to you, see in that the image of the Great Father above who loves you with an everlasting love. If you have other satisfying and successful human relationships, thank God for them and see in them the expression of God's love for you, and the illustration of the fellowship He wants to have with you and you with Him.

But if any or all of those are lacking, if you seem to be a little island in a great sea of isolation and loneliness, look up to God and know that for you there is a fellowship deeper and closer than any human experience can be. I've read it: "For all the world neglects to bestow, God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors."

Do you remember at the marriage feast Jesus made the best wine, at the last? It wasn't some scraps that the people got at the end. When God Himself makes up to you, He makes it up to you in the best of favors. It isn't some leftovers that are for you, that society may call leftover. No, my friend, the tenderness of God, the love of God, and the fellowship of God all are for you in an infinitely sweet and close and precious way.

We need this message in this time when there is so little representation of human love and fellowship. We can go into the ghettos, we can go into the alleys, we can go into the savage jungles, and we can tell every human being, God loves you. Whether you have ever known human love or not, there is One who cares for you, who thinks of you, and He wants to be near you, not simply because He feels sorry for you and wants to do something nice for you. He needs you. He wants you. He wants your fellowship. He wants you to visit with Him.

Ah friends, if we can get hold of this, don't you think we'll be taking time to visit with Him every day? Now last night I stressed the importance of this early morning time with the Lord. But that's merely the beginning, that's the prelude, the introduction. Listen while I read this tremendous statement:

"Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor." *Ibid.*, page 511.

Wouldn't you be that way with somebody you love? Suppose you had a cousin you thought a lot of, and the cousin comes all the way from Michigan, or New York, or somewhere to visit you. And you take that cousin walking. Would you say anything all morning, or would you just walk right ahead, and the cousin walk right ahead, and each one of you view the scenery as you cared to and never a word between you, what about it?

Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor. That'll take up most of the time, except when you're asleep. Now, it says cultivate the habit. How do you cultivate a habit anyway? I'll tell you how to cultivate a habit; you do the same thing over and over again. Is that right? I notice most of you had no difficulty getting a spoon to your mouth this

morning. But you know there was a time when that was a most difficult job. In fact, you just got the stuff all over you. You say, come now, I never did anything like that. You just don't remember; that's all. But now you can take that spoon and put it in and get it to your mouth OK, at least 99 times out of 100. You have the habit, don't you? How did you get it? You cultivated it. You did the same thing over and over again. This is the thing to do about what I'm studying with you

“Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor.” *Ibid.*

Well, Brother Frazee somebody says, I'd like to do that, but I don't think about it. Just do it when you do think about it. That's all you can do, you can't do it when you don't think about it. But if you'll just make a bargain with God, and you say dear Lord bring it to my mind to talk with You, and I'll do it when you bring it to my mind, you'll be surprised how fast that habit will grow.

“Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor.” *Ibid.*

My Lord and I we hold such sweet communion  
What others fear, He keeps me from alarm.  
We walk and talk, along life's busy pathway  
Secure am I from all that would do harm.

Let's send Jesus the word that we love Him, and that we're glad that He wants us.

Precious Lord, we knew You loved us, but we didn't know how much You wanted us. We don't know all about it yet, Lord, but we're so glad that all our little hearts can hold, we thank Thee for just now. Keep us cultivating this companionship with Jesus. Keep us looking to Thee, happy that we make Thee glad, for Christ' sake. Amen.

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