

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHEN DO WE CROSS GOD’S LINE OF FELLOWSHIP?

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Ladies and gentlemen have you ever noticed when observing a football field that the boundaries around the field have already been set before the participants even arrive? Beyond these boundaries is “out of bounds.” Before the game begins the players understand the consequences when one steps outside the boundaries. As the game is in progress the players have to remain within the designated playing area. When a player stumbles out of bounds, he is either disqualified or the play is over.

When we examine the boundaries of fellowship God has already marked the lines. In order to have fellowship with one another we have to stay within these boundaries. When do we cross the line forming God’s boundary for fellowship?

When We Do Not Abide In The Doctrine Of Christ

Apostle John says, “Whosoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring

this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds” (2John 9-11). In studying this context it is evident that the apostle John is emphasizing *the Deity of Christ*. Ladies and gentlemen this teaching is part of *the Doctrine which Christ taught*. Some preachers today want to limit this passage to only the teaching of the Deity of Christ. Why is it that some brethren today will limit what we can’t fellowship in 2John 9-11, but will turn around and expand what we can fellowship in Romans 14. Ladies and gentlemen it appears that these men want to expand fellowship. Are we going to give men God speed when they do not bring all that Jesus taught?

When We Have Fellowship With Unfruitful Works Of Darkness

Paul says, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them”* (Ephesians 5:11). The Greek word *SUNKOINONEO*, denotes to have “fellowship with.” Christians are not to participate in the sins of others. Instead, God commands that Christians are to reprove one of such actions. This is our responsibility to stand for

the truth and correct those who teach error. For example, are we going to extend fellowship to preachers today who teach error on marriage/divorce/remarriage but teach the truth on other biblical subjects? No!! When doctrinal error is taught that allows people to live in unlawful marriages we have crossed God’s line of fellowship. As a result of this, fellowship is not to be extended.

When Someone Adds To Or Takes Away from God’s Word

In Revelation 22:18-19 the apostle John gives specific instructions that one is not to add to or take away from the word of God. Also we are to respect the silence of the scriptures (Hebrews 7:14). Any additions to God’s word is sinful. God has forbidden anything to be added to or taken away. (Deuteronomy 4:2).

We never want to cross God’s line of fellowship. Christians are to abide in the doctrine of Christ, have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, and refrain from adding to or taking away from God’s word.