

Restoration to Fellowship (RTF)

Salvation is provided by Jesus Christ.

Walking in the Spirit is provided by the Holy Spirit.

Glorification is provided by the first Person of the Trinity.

You enter into God's plan for this life when you are saved. No one is ever ready for what God has for man on this earth until he has met Jesus Christ at the foot of the Cross. [Acts 16:31](#)

Before we study RTF, Note:

- I. Once a person believes in Jesus Christ, he cannot lose his salvation.
 - a. Salvation is the work of God. God is perfect and anything God does cannot be improved upon and cannot be nullified or destroyed by any member of the human race. [Rom. 8:38,39](#); [Psalm 37:24](#)
 - b. We are held by Him, not by ourselves. [I Peter 1:4,5](#); [II Tim. 2:13](#)
- II. Doctrine of Carnality – every believer is either carnal or spiritual.
 - a. We become carnal believers when we sin.
 - b. We become Spiritual believers when we are RTF.
- III. Doctrine of the Old Sin Nature
 - a. The believer has two natures: Human Spirit – ability to comprehend Spiritual phenomena. When the OSN rules us, we are carnal. When the Holy Spirit rules us, we are Spiritual. [1 Cor. 3:1-3](#)
 - b. There is such a thing as a carnal Christian.
 - c. There is such a thing as a Christian out of fellowship. A baby in Christ requires a lot of attention.
- IV. Passages which describe Christian sins: [Gal. 5:16-21](#); [Proverbs 6:16-19](#), (3 out of 7 are sins of the tongue)
 - a. Pride (think they are spiritual). They think the things they don't do make them Spiritual.
 - b. A lying tongue.
 - c. Hands that shed innocent blood – murder.
 - d. A heart that devises wicked imaginations – mental attitudes.

Restoration to Fellowship (RTF) (Continued)

- e. Feet which are swift in running to mischief – trouble makers.
- f. A false witness that speaks lies.
- g. He that soweth discord among brethren.

V. [1 John 1:1-10](#)

- a. When we believe in Christ, we are in union with Him.
- b. Two-fold concept of fellowship:
 - i. Eternal Fellowship
 - ii. Temporal fellowship (fellowship in present age.)
- c. Verse 4 gives purpose of Epistle – to promote joy or inner happiness among believers. Every believer should have inner happiness.
- d. Verse 5 – contrast of essence. God is light in this sense: Sovereign, Justice, Righteousness, Eternal Life, Love, Immutability, Veracity, Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence. God is everything that is perfect. Essence of man – darkness. Man’s sin – OSN.

VI. When you see “IF” in scripture, it represents or introduces conditional clauses and means one of four things.

- a. 1st class condition means “IF” and true.
- b. 2nd class condition means “IF” and not true.
- c. 3rd class condition means “IF” and maybe yes, maybe no.
- d. 4th class condition means “IF” and I wish it were true, but it isn’t (wish which is negative in reality).

VII. Verse 6 through verse 10 – Each “IF” is a 3rd class condition (maybe yes, maybe no). It is up to you as a believer and you can do this or not.

VIII. Verse 8 – Sin is singular – SIN NATURE.

IX. Verse 10 – “if we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar.....”

Restoration to Fellowship (RTF) (Continued)

The great believers today are not the people who think they are not sinning, but the ones who know they are sinners, but who do not let their sins keep them out of fellowship.

MECHANICS OF RTF:

1. [1 John 1:9](#), 3rd class “if” which means maybe we will confess our sins and maybe we won’t. It is up to the volition of the believer.
 - a. For Christians only
 - b. For this life only (confession for an unbeliever is useless. Judas Iscariot confessed his sin, felt sorry for his sins and made restitution. He did everything but believe in Christ and therefore he was lost and died an unbeliever.)
 - c. “Confess” – acknowledge our sins. Not feel sorry, not renounce sins, no guilty conscience.
 - d. “Confess” is in present tense – habitual; subjunctive mood means a potential thing.
 - e. “He is faithful...” does the same thing every time. “to forgive us our sins” Aorist (once and for all). “all unrighteousness”confess known sins and He will forgive unknown sins also.
2. God’s way is GRACE – not works - in salvation or RTF.
3. When we sin, we subject ourselves to discipline. The Word teaches Christian discipline in [Heb. 12:6](#).
 - a. Sin puts us under one kind of discipline or another. Under the Mosaic Law, sinning placed a person under seven steps of discipline. The 2nd time, 7 more steps added. Then 7 X 7 (49) steps added for one sin.
4. RTF does several things. It brings you into fellowship and then one of three things will happen.
 - a. [1 Cor. 11:31](#) – No discipline at all
 - b. The discipline is minimized
 - c. The discipline continues, but being in fellowship, GRACE sustains one *through* that discipline.
5. When a person stays out of fellowship for a long period of time, he can even convince himself that he was never a believer. [Gal. 3:26](#), [John 1:12](#); [Luke 15:11](#) (Parable of our Lord – Prodigal Son)