

ACCEPTANCE

Previously we learned that your *relationship* with God is secure because, through Christ, you are *forgiven* and *accepted* by God.

Relationship vs. Fellowship:

In addition to providing this eternal relationship, God also desires for you to enjoy walking closely with Him and communicating with Him throughout each day. This is called fellowship.

When we choose to sin, our permanent **relationship** with God as His children is not affected, but our **fellowship** with Him is interrupted.

For example, your relationship with your earthly father is permanent. No matter what you do, you will always be his child. But suppose you rebelled against your father and angrily left home in spite of his efforts to reach out to you.

Would you still be your father's child?

What would happen to your fellowship?

This relationship with your imperfect, earthly father is a picture of how you can relate to your perfect heavenly Father.

Comparing relationship with fellowship:

Your Relationship with God

Began when you received Christ
(John 1:12)

Is everlasting
(1 Peter 1:3,4)

Is maintained totally by God
(John 10:27-29)

Never changes
(Hebrews 13:5)

Your Fellowship with God

Began when you received Christ
(Colossians 2:6)

Can be hindered
(Psalm 32:3-5)

Is maintained in part by you
(1 John 1:9)

Changes when you sin
(Psalm 66:18)

Though all Christians have an eternal **relationship** with God, not all Christians are experiencing daily **fellowship** with Him.

Let's see how we can consistently experience fellowship with God.