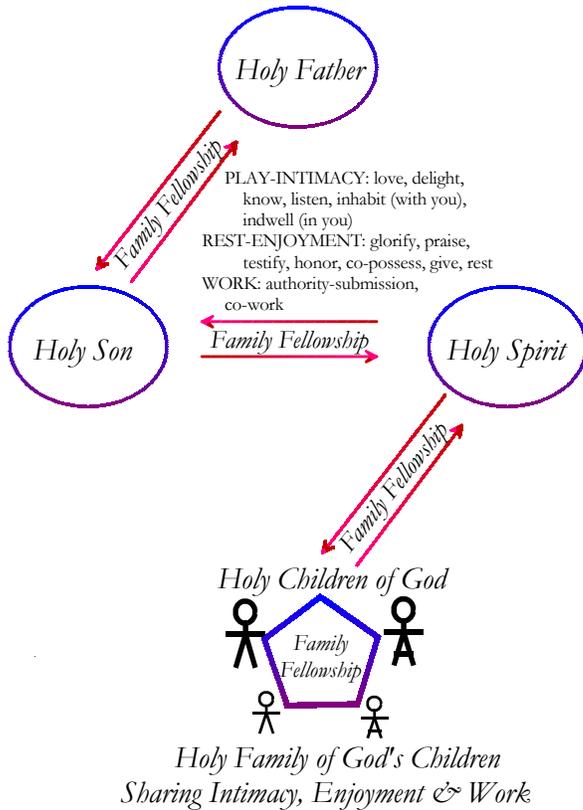


The Fellowship of the Trinity with & imaged in the Christian Family



1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that *you too may have fellowship with us*; and indeed *our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ*.

**wife whom you love**, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

ESV Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,<sup>25</sup> for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?<sup>26</sup> For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

ESV Ecclesiastes 3:12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;<sup>13</sup> also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil--this is God's gift to man.

ESV Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot.<sup>19</sup> Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil--this is the gift of God.<sup>20</sup> For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

ESV Ecclesiastes 8:15 And I commend joy, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

**Team-rest: re-awakening a mutual enjoyment between each other as a reflection of mutual enjoyment between you and God**

Deuteronomy 16: Three annual Feasts of **Passover** (remember God delivered you from Egyptian slavery), **Weeks/ Harvest/ Pentecost/ First Fruits** (remember God gave the harvest), and **Booths or Tabernacles** (remember wilderness wanderings) *were intended as appointed times of rest and feasting with joy before the Lord for all that he had provided.*

**ISRAEL'S FESTIVALS of REST & JOY: Three, week-long, Jerusalem festivals of worship before the Lord are the reward for our labor under the sun, according to this repeated theme in Ecclesiastes**

ESV Ecclesiastes 9:7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.<sup>8</sup> Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.<sup>9</sup> **Enjoy life with the**

<sup>ESV</sup> Deuteronomy 12:5 But you shall seek the place that the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. **There you shall go,** <sup>6</sup> and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. <sup>7</sup> And **there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.**

The theme of REST in the Bible

**Resting:**

<sup>ESV</sup> Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and *he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

<sup>ESV</sup> Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, *while the promise of entering his rest still stands,* let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup> For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. <sup>3</sup> For *we who have believed enter that rest,* as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest," *although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.* <sup>4</sup> For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "*And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.*" <sup>5</sup> And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." <sup>6</sup> Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." <sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, *there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,* <sup>10</sup> *for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.* <sup>11</sup> *Let us therefore strive to enter that rest,* so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>ESV</sup> Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and *I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

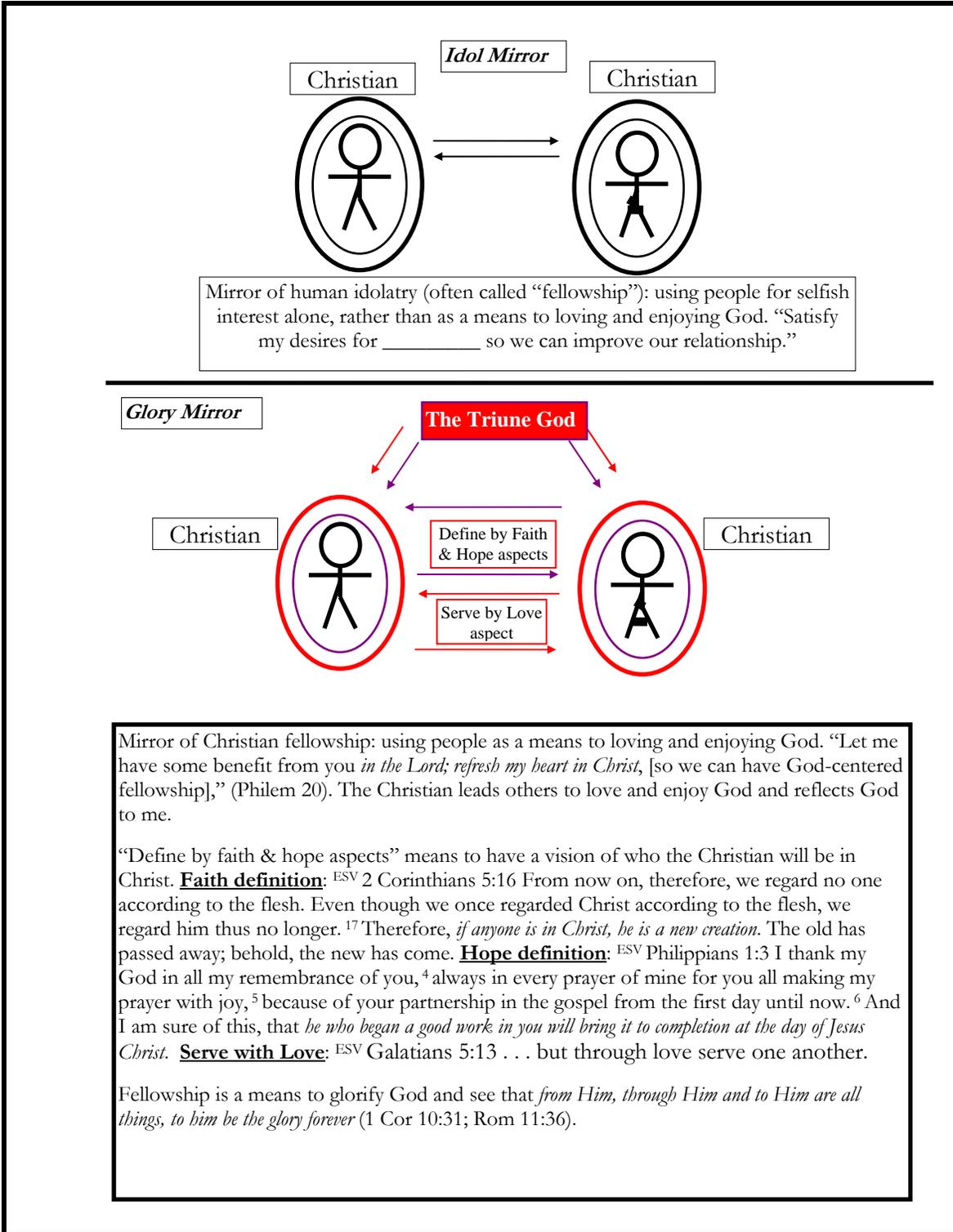
<sup>ESV</sup> Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because *he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,* <sup>19</sup> *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**Rest applied to marriage:**

**1. Rest from performance related acceptance of each other**

<sup>Hebrews 4:3</sup> For *we who have believed enter that rest,* . . . <sup>9</sup> So then, *there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,* <sup>10</sup> *for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.* <sup>11</sup> *Let us therefore strive to enter that rest,* so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

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**2. Enjoy each other the way Christ enjoys you: as liberated-by-grace spouse in an eternal promise of fidelity:** <sup>ESV</sup> Romans 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>ESV</sup> Romans 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

<sup>ESV</sup> Isaiah 62:4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup> For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and *as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

New Testament evidence of Christ's welcome is by his gift of the Spirit: <sup>ESV</sup> Acts 15:8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,<sup>9</sup> and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

**3. Rest from WORK through regular, joyful Worship & Retreats, together enjoying your material produce in vacations, festivals and feasting**

As developed in the Ecclesiastes themes above, take times for retreat, worship, prayer, vacationing before the Lord, "second & third & fourth honeymoon," family conferences for refreshment and worship, sharing & enjoying the possessions that God has given you together.

<sup>ESV</sup> Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.