





Nuts & Bolts

the practical facts
about a particular thing

**Our responsibilities toward
wayward brethren**

“For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything...”

(2 Cor. 2:9)

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wayward brethren**

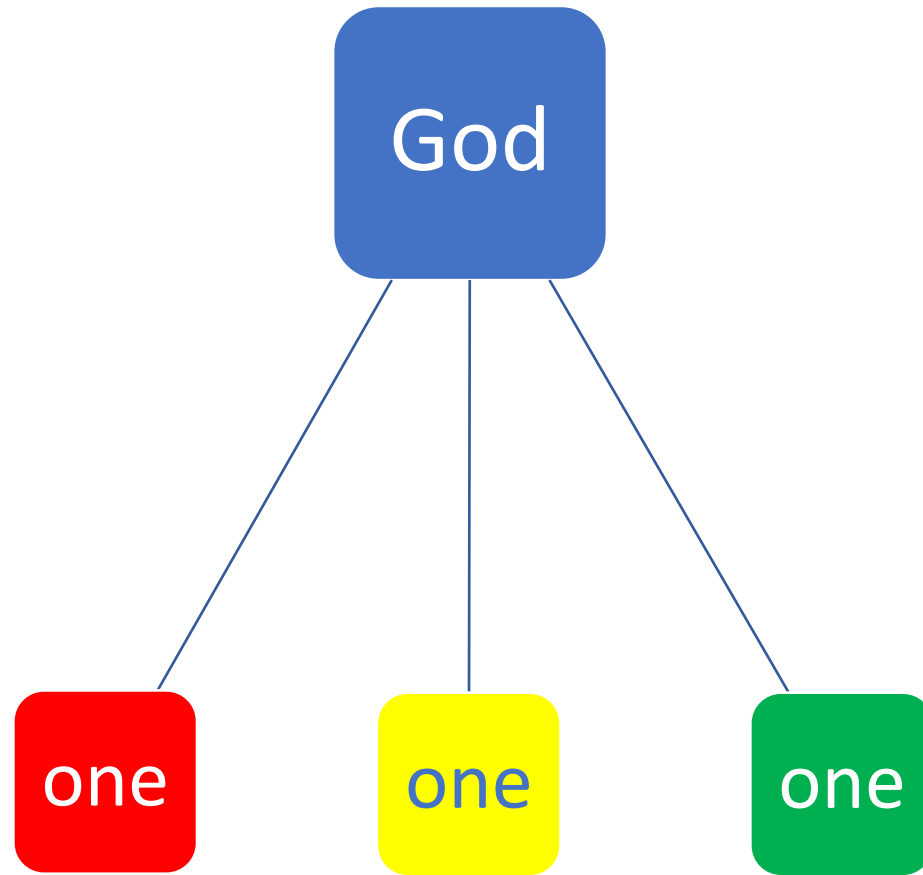
Our Responsibilities

- First... mourn (1 Cor. 5:2)
- Try to resolve private matters on a one-to-one basis (Matt. 18:15)
 - If resolution is not possible, take witnesses (18:16)
 - If resolution is still not achieved, tell the church (18:17)
 - If the sinner will not listen to the church, all ties are to be broken (18:17)
- Not all sins are private issues between two Christians
 - Paul did not instruct the Corinthians to first privately talk to the man who was committing fornication (1 Cor. 5:1-5)
 - When you are assembled “*remove this man from your fellowship*” (NLT)
- Church discipline must be public and involve the whole church
 - To warn others; to expose the sin; to get all to help restore the wayward

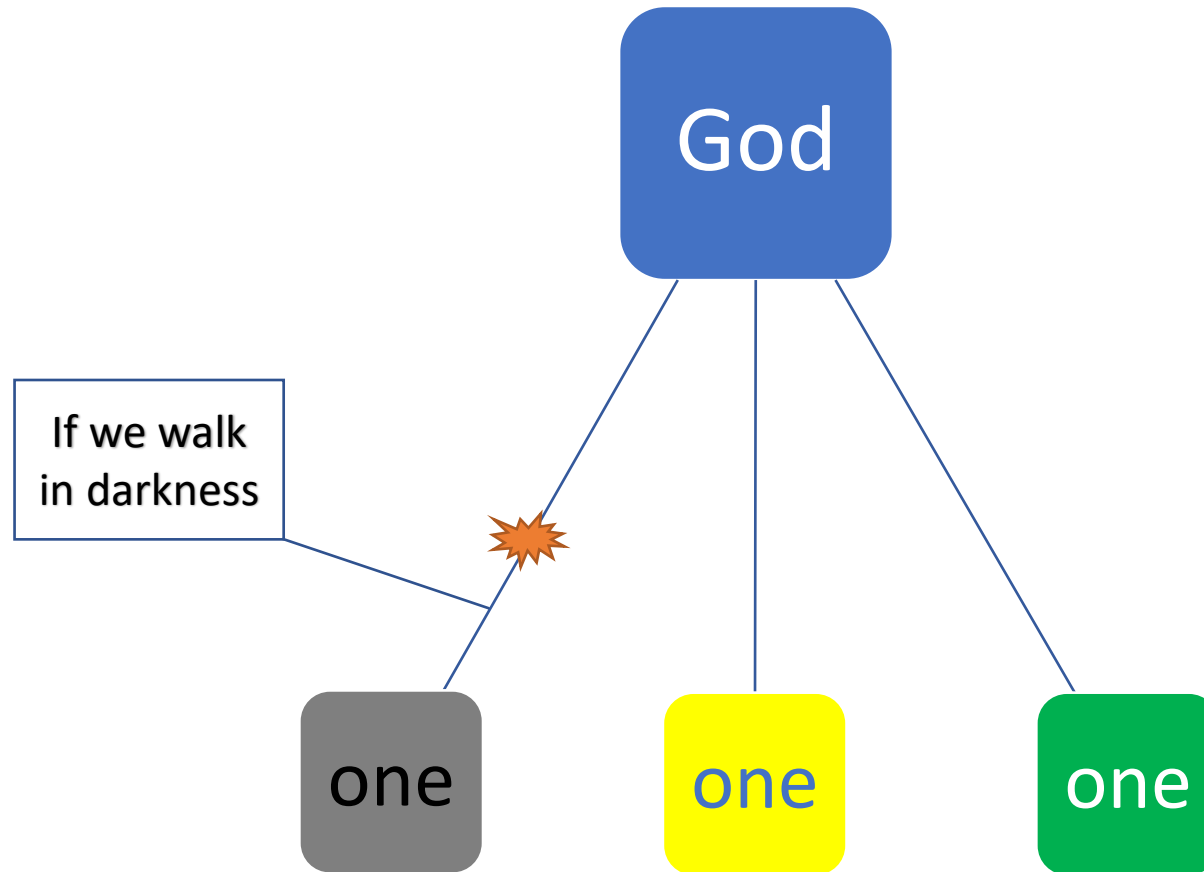
Fellowship

- Is always, only used of spiritual relationships in the Bible
 - Not food and fun - even if shared among fellow believers
- English word “fellowship” used of social interaction
 - Our use of the word this way causes confusion

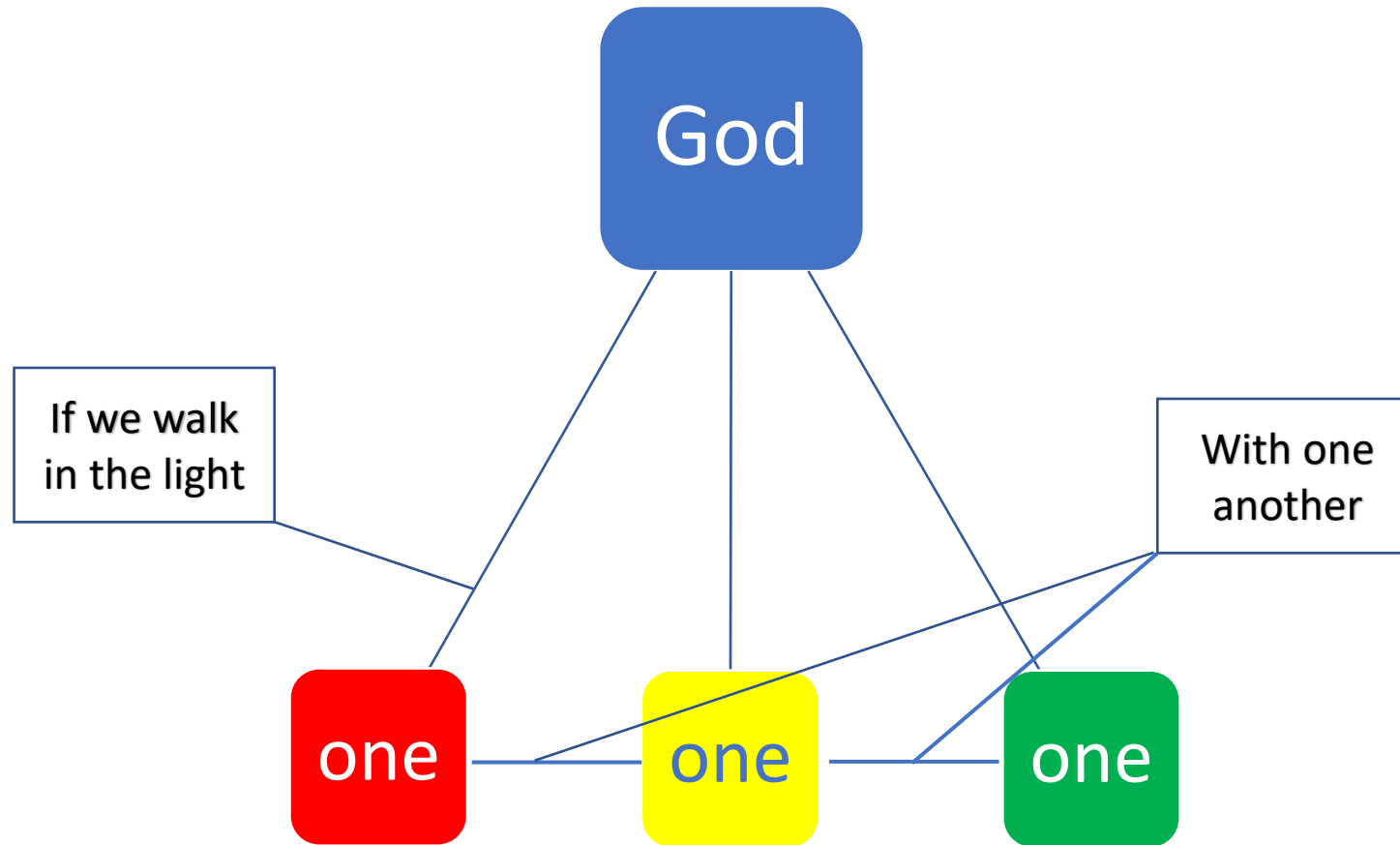
Fellowship (1 John 1:1-5)



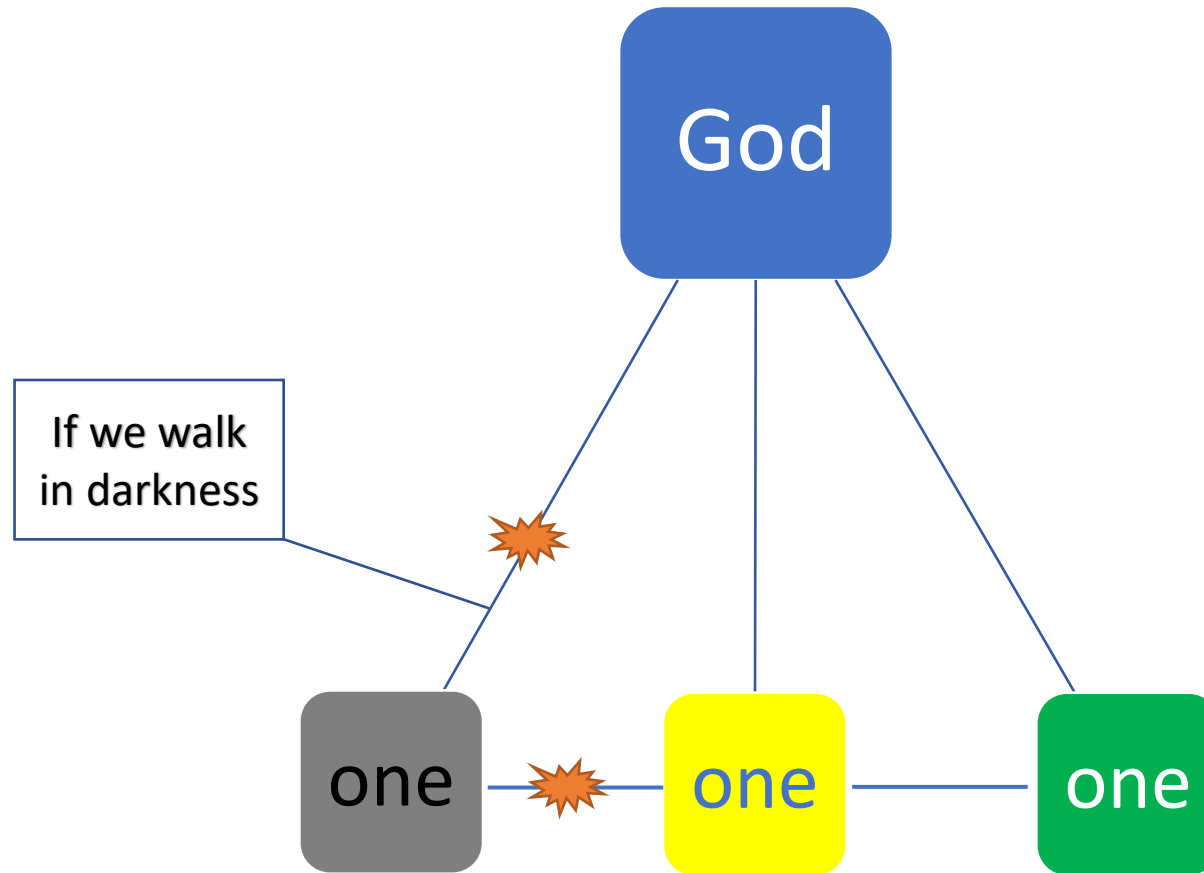
Fellowship (1 John 1:6)



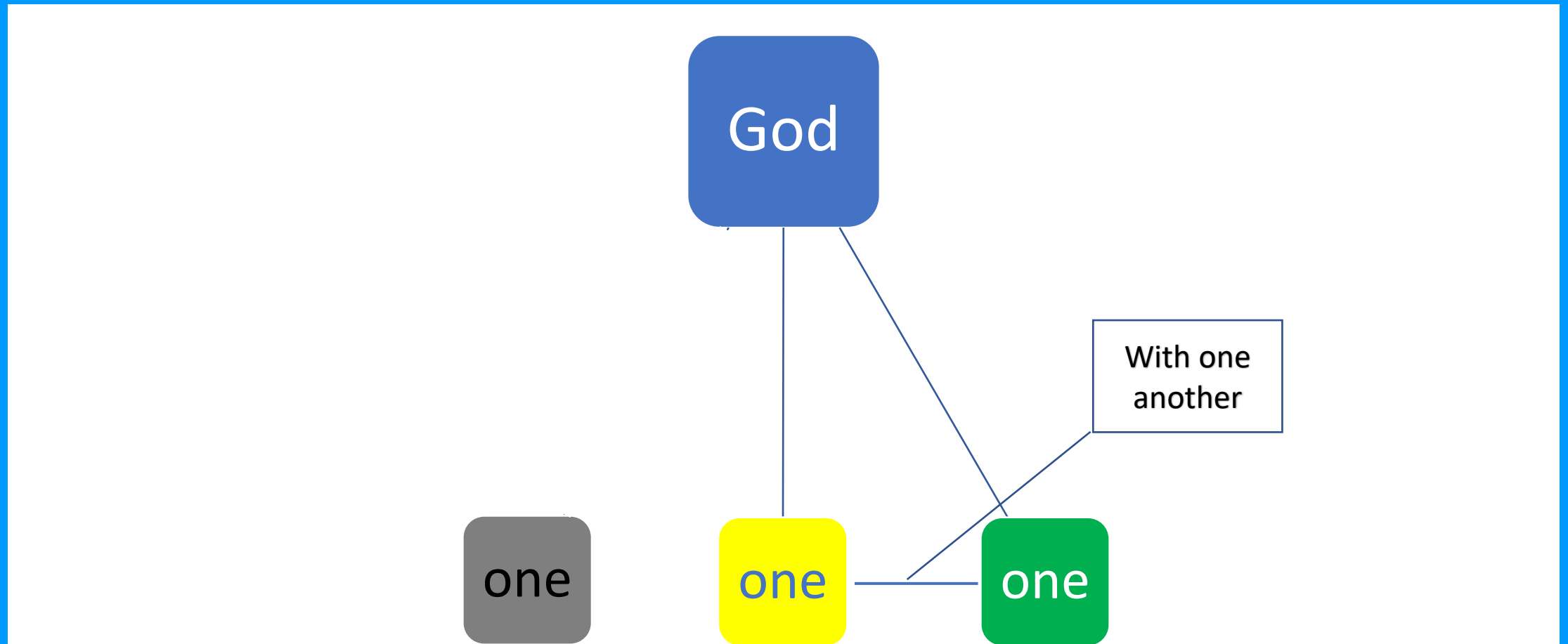
Fellowship (1 John 1:7)



Fellowship (1 John 1:6-7)



Fellowship (1 John 1:7)



Fellowship

- Sin breaks fellowship with God
 - The basis for our fellowship with one another
 - Thereby breaking our fellowship with one another
- We don't unilaterally "withdraw fellowship"
- If one is walking in darkness, they have broken fellowship with God and therefore broken fellowship with us
- We "judge" if/when others are walking in darkness
 - 1 Cor. 5:1-2 *"Ought you not rather..."*
 - Titus 3:9-10 *"avoid... warn... have nothing to do with..."*

Fellowship & Walking in Darkness

- Which sin can one persist in or practice that does not constitute walking in darkness?
- Specific sins are mentioned in specific NT cases, **but they do not** comprise an exhaustive list of “reasons for withdrawal”
 - Fornicators, covetous, etc. – **1 Cor. 5:1-13**
 - False teachers – **Rom. 16:17-18**
 - Stir up division – **Titus 3:10**
 - Walking disorderly – **2 Thess. 3:6**
 - They are all examples of and included in “*walking in darkness*”
- Which sin can one persist in or practice that does not constitute walking in darkness?

Fellowship

- Remember “fellowship” is a spiritual relationship
- There is a distinction between “fellowship” and physical consequences

Consequences of Broken Fellowship

- We “withdraw ourselves” from one who “broke fellowship”
 - *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” - 2 Thess. 3:6 (KJV)*
- We withdraw ourselves from the brother because we have judged him to be walking disorderly
 - He is walking in darkness, not after the tradition he “received”
 - He has therefore broken fellowship with God
 - He has broken our fellowship based on our mutual fellowship with God
- We acknowledge his decision to walk in darkness, then enact the consequences we “received”

Our Responsibilities

- *“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Matt. 18:17)*
- *“Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.” (Rom. 16:17)*
- *“But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.” (1 Cor. 5:11)*
- *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.” (2 Thess. 3:6)*
- *“Reject a factious man after a first and second warning” (Titus 3:10)*

Our Responsibilities

- *“Yet do not regard him as an enemy but admonish him as a brother.”*
(2 Thess. 3:15)
 - **Admonish**- reasoning with someone by warning them through instruction
 - especially appeals to the mind, supplying doctrinal and spiritual substance
 - This "exerts positive pressure" on someone's logic (reasoning), i.e., urging them to choose (turn to) God's best.
- *“... so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.”* (2 Cor. 2:7)
 - Remain ready to receive them back when they repent

Our Responsibilities

- Limit social contact to opportunities and efforts to admonish them
- Express brotherly love and concern for them
- Demonstrate a willingness and desire to receive them back
- *“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.” (Gal. 6:1)*

BONUS

- Why do we practice church discipline?
- Church discipline ALWAYS works

Our Test

“For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything...”

(2 Cor. 2:9)

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