

OpenTheo

Fellowship

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For The King - Rocky Ramsey

This past weekend was my bachelor party! I am mere days away from getting married and I am beyond excited to be united to my bride, the love of my life. To celebrate such an event my brother and a few friends went on a hiking trip for my bachelor party! It was an amazing time and I was reminded of the importance of Christian fellowship and how more important it will be to me as a married man in desperate need of prayer to love and cherish my wife as Christ did the church. We didn't have time to continue our series because of this party but I hope you enjoy this quick side episode. Thanks for listening!

Key Text: Psalm 133: 1

Joining me this week is Noah, a close friend of mine. He just finished his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and works part time at a prosthetic practice. He is a follower of Christ. Also joining me this week on the Sunday series is my brother Bryce. Bryce is getting his undergraduate degree in philosophy and hopes to get his MDiv. from a seminary after he completes his undergrad. He hopes to be a pastor shepherding God's people one day.

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Transcript

That's what God's actively doing. How exactly the work of the world is establishing his kingdom of justice and righteousness. Yeah, that is definitely a war-like act in a world

where spiritual evil has had a dominion for such a long time.

Christ is coming to through that kingdom. Don't think I will even ask you to make Jesus Lord of your life. That's the most preposterous thing I could ever tell you to do.

Jesus Christ is Lord of your life. Whether you serve him or not, whether you bless him, curse him, hate him, or love him, he is the Lord of your life because God has given him a name that is above every name so that the name of Jesus Christ, every knee shall bow and tongue confess that he is Lord. Some of you will bow out of the grace that has been given to you and others will bow because your kneecaps will be broken by the one who rules the nations with a rod of iron.

But I'll not apologize for this God of the Bible.

[Music] Welcome to the For the King podcast. I'm going to read from Psalm 133 verse 1. Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.

[Music] He's preaching better than we can say amen.

[Music] Amen.

[Music] And a woman.

Amen and a woman.

[Music] Oh, that was good.

[Music] So, hey, I read that verse.

Sorry, what? I read that verse because we want to just do a quick little walk through the importance of fellowship in the Christian faith and how we're commanded to gather together with what? What? Not only on a Sunday morning. Why? Just him chomping in the back. No, you're just lying.

Oh, appreciate it. Not only because what we talked about what we were going to do. This was just like added on.

He tracks on like three different things. I know. We can talk about multiple things and you guys are good spur of the moment.

We'll be fine. So I lost my train of thought. We're just talking about how important fellowship is in the Christian faith and how we're commanded to have brothers in Christ.

I'm talking outside of just hanging out on a Sunday morning at church. It's important to obviously have brothers and sisters in Christ that you're with on a regular basis. Any thoughts on that, folks? I just I love what you just said.

Do you agree with it? Yeah. So I got to pick with that. Okay.

If we're picking bones, then let's hear it. Though in all seriousness, though, we are coming back from Rocky's bachelor party. Yep.

So this goes into this because guys, you know, when they when they get married, they have a bunch of a bunch of men that they surround themselves with that they call their groomsmen. And it's for that sake of accountability. It's for that sake of fellowship and friendship and brotherhood and camaraderie.

So this is just something we naturally already understand. Men understand that they need camaraderie. They need brotherhood.

They need fellowship. Yep. So it's just a cool concept that's already in the right.

Exactly. Nella? Oh, we're gonna add something. I can.

Hey, by all means. All right. Oh, brotherhood.

You know, it's very important for men to have other men around them so they can become better men together. Exactly. Men need men to be... Is that a good summation of what you just said? Yeah.

Well, if you want to be a man, you must be around other men to help you also be a man. So how does that relate when it comes to we behold God in the face of Jesus Christ and in that we are transformed from one degree of glory to the next? Yeah, 2 Corinthians 3, 18. Yeah.

So how does that relate as we behold the man? If we hang out with Christ, we gonna become like Christ. Right? I reckon. Yeah.

I reckon so. Yeah, I mean, this is Jesus is our... I forget exactly which gospel it's in, but he's talking about I have no longer... A servant doesn't know his master. Yeah.

But Jesus says, "I don't call you servants, I call you friends." Yeah. And Jesus is our big brother, our friend. That is someone obviously we always look up to and we're always being conformed to.

And he is the forerunner before us and we're running after him. Yeah. When we hang out, like when I hang out with Bryce, like this bachelor party that we just did was awesome and we had a great time.

And when I hang out with Noah and I hang out with Bryce and I hang out with all these guys, they're spurring me on and in a very shadowy sense that Christ does with me through his Holy Spirit. So. Yeah, that's an accurate division.

Yeah. It's a... There's some imagery there. And that's why Paul makes this statement like, "I'm gonna take me as I imitate Christ." Right? There's the recognition of other brothers in Christ who are being conformed to Christ's image.

And we all engage that together. So there's a Bible verse that says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend." "Trophiis." "Are the kisses of an enemy." So you see men, in particular, because we're talking about brotherhood specifically, you know, we're not just blowing sunshine up each other's butts. We actually want to iron Sharpen's iron.

Yep. And not just kissing up on your friend when they're doing something stupid, but you wound them perhaps at times. Yep.

And that's something that God even does for us by his fatherly displeasure. Exactly. That's a... I mean, a word of advice out there for people that are Christians that don't feel like they have close friends.

You... An indicator of a close friend is somebody that's gonna get under your skin. Somebody that's willing to tell you the hard things. So.

Yeah, I'm sure they said they love you. Exactly. I have to come out to Rocky at least five times a week, because he's either doing something stupid or saying something stupid.

And I humbly sit there and listen each time and I accept the rebuke. I heed it. I heed its instruction and I repent every single time.

And you're saying, "My time is better for it." But again, I just always find something new. I find something worse. Exactly.

It gets worse each time. Worse and worse. So a good friend is super nippy.

They just... Every little wrong thing. Okay. They just nitpick.

That just went way too far. I'm just joking. A good friend.

That's true. Yeah. Well, I mean, partly.

I mean, the point... We're just being goofy, but the point is a good friend will spur you unto Christ, which sometimes entails opposing you from some knuckleheadedness you're doing. Yeah. And a poor friend will lead you away from Christ.

Yeah. Yeah. So it's important to choose friends wisely.

Yeah. Yeah. So choose your friends wisely, those of you listening.

If you're younger and still developing these lifelong friends that you want to have one day, these are the friends you should be looking for. And if you're a young man about to get married like myself, as a... Going on this bachelor party, I explicitly prayed, and

these guys prayed multiple times, that they are going to include themselves in holding me accountable in my marriage. So if I'm not loving my wife, if I'm being harsh with my wife, if I'm doing something to oppress my wife, then these guys are gonna jump me.

They're gonna be like the Christian Mafia. They're gonna carry around some lead pipes and some brass knuckles and some bats. And I'm gonna start hearing some real thick Boston accents.

Hey, why are you walking in this alley? This is all alley. And then I'm gonna look up and it's some of my closest friends here to destroy me. [Laughter] This is what your friend does.

Hey, the Reaper called. The Reaper called? The Reaper. The Reaper? The Grim Reaper.

Oh, like, oh, the Grim Reaper. I thought you were like reaping what you're sowing. Hey, the Reaper called.

This is what you sowed. And then you just get knocked upside the head. I like that.

That is kind of funny. Yeah, I know. I reversed it back all out.

[Laughter] No. Oh, I thought you had something. You're gonna try to make it apply.

No, I'm glad you originally said, you know, Psalms chapter one is a really good indication. Oh, yeah. The way in which you walk, it says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the council of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and all his law he meditates day and night." So you see an acquaintance that a person has with wicked men. And what does this do? These people scoff their sinners. They hate God.

And ultimately, that rubs off on you. Because your dwelling place is not in the house of the Lord, but your dwelling place is with these evil men who seek only to scoff, slander, and blaspheme God's name. So that's why it's so important not only to surround yourself around godly men, but also like-minded men in the sense of you have a same goal and a similar mission.

Yeah. Right? You're on the same path. Yeah, every man needs a man of brothers.

Yeah, exactly. To accomplish a mission in the past. Exactly.

Because there's no lone wolfers in command. Exactly. Yeah.

We need brothers to go fight and to conquer with. But that doesn't mean every single brother is going to... There's going to be some brothers who have different missions and different callings. Exactly.

And you're not going to dwell with them as much as you would with... Like if you're doing a ministry at the abortion mills, preaching the gospel there and seeking to save the lost. And to save the children who are about to be murdered, you're going to be with a couple of brothers who are engaging them out with you. Yeah.

Right? So it's a bond of brotherhoods for the same mission and cause. Yep. Men are at their best with allies, with men that they feel confident with, that they can go into battle with.

Yeah. I mean, you'll get these exceptional guys, obviously, that can do things by themselves, obviously. But like, your average man is at his best around his brothers that spur him on and give him confidence in the things he's doing.

They build each other up. And also, what do you guys think about... Do you think there's an element there too? Just the competitive nature within men to seek. Yeah.

There's also that. There's a sense in which you want to do what is right as a display to your brothers also. Yeah.

What do you think about that? Serve. Yeah, it's a good motivator. Yeah.

Yeah, I think competition, not for a selfish game, but to outdo one another in love, I think that's where competition and aggression and testosterone can come in. Yeah. No toxic masculinity here.

Nope. No, I wouldn't be caught dead being a toxic man. Just that sure biblical patriarchy.

My brothers would wait in an alley until I turned down to get in my car that I parked to just night in the town with my wife. And they'd wait there in an alley and all of a sudden I'd hear in a Boston accent. This is the wrong alley, bub.

And it'd be Bryce with a baseball bat to rebuke me for my toxic masculinity. Why is it always the same scene? Why is it always an alley? Why do I always have a bat? Why do I always have a bat? That's what the mafia did. You ever read about Al Capone? No.

No, me either actually. Because he's about betrayal. What about it? What are you guys thinking about friends who betray friends? Dude, that's like.

There's death. Whoa. What in the world? You got a geezy in your back pocket or something? Death to the friendship might be more accurate.

Friendship. Get it? Cause French room. Yeah.

Apparently you park on, you park on a, on a, wait, what is it? You park on a freeway and you drive on a parkway. And you, you, you send shipments on cars and cargo on ships. Any thoughts there? I don't know how that related.

He said something about a play on words. So I just jumped there. Yeah.

Talking about friendship. And I see that you send cargo on ships. I received that.

Do you receive it? I don't know how that spoke to me. But I received that. Well, the spirit will lead you to Altarith so.

Not right. We don't actually believe that. That was some, that's some funky theology right there.

I think that's all we got to say, right? Oh no, we have more. It's a good note, Ted. We're just talking about the importance of brotherhood and I mean fellowship and I think we've hit it.

I mean, this isn't even built. This is ingrained in creation. You don't have to be a Christian to benefit from this natural law of fellowship.

Right? Yeah. This is the best thing I've heard from Rocky. These are right here.

I have two guys with me that have helped shape my views on natural law more than any other that I know. Yeah. So just to just to make sure we're all on the same page here, this other guy in here, Noah, this is the guy from the uniqueness of America.

The Zionism podcast, uh, the aliens one, he's been on quite a number. Oh, and the, and the conversation with an ebullant natural law theorist that episode as well. So yeah, yeah, here's Noah.

He's with us. So yeah, you can even benefit from fellowship as bless you. You don't even have to be a Christian to benefit from obviously fellowship.

This is just ingrained in nature. Even animals travel and herds. Do they not? Well, that's a, that's different.

We're not, we are supreme over animals over those dumb boots. They don't, they don't, they're not made of the same stuff as we are. I know.

I'm just messing with you. They're not made of the God. We are not mammals.

No, we're not. No, not animals remain the energy of God or supreme over them. So you can't use that.

Are you? Just because animals doesn't mean nothing. You don't think there's something there? There's a relation. It's a mimicry.

It's a relation. A relation. It's the same sort of relation as I am relating to the moon by a specific amount of miles.

So like no relation at all. God made you and the moon just like he made you and the animals. That's true.

That's true. But we are not animals. We're not animals.

Not animals. But we have canines like a dog would have a canine tooth. That's just, we've just done that.

We just subscribed a specific tooth as canine. Yeah. That doesn't mean it's related.

Oh. It's a name. Monkeys have five digits.

They don't even know what numbers are. I don't even know how many digits. They had to be frank.

Are you talking about their fingers? Yeah. I'm just saying, hey, I got a liver and I'm talking about, I eat some cow liver. Yeah.

Yeah. Cows have liver too. Yeah.

Exactly. Just cows. So there's got to be something there.

Do you see how I'm getting that? It's a relation for sure. Just not based upon being a male. Exactly.

Hmm. Hey, God, we're clearing that up. That's good.

God, we're clearing that up. What else about fellowship is important? Is it important for men to wrestle? No, you want to take on that? Oh, yeah. Should you wrestle your brothers? The Bible says not to wrestle your neighbor.

The Bible says not to wrestle your neighbor. More big Nacho Libre fans here. Yeah, you know, there's a lot of... I've lost my turn.

Just tell me something about wrestling. All right. There's definitely a good amount of health that you can get from participating in not just wrestling, but like tussling, you know, horse... Horseplay, tussling.

Really, you know, all those martial arts, it's pretty good for a man to do. It's good for a man to be able to control his body so that if he wanted to hurt somebody, he could do it. He could do it.

Why? He controls himself so he doesn't do it unless he needs to. So do you think it would be a good and godly thing for a man to have the capacity to render someone ineffective or unconscious? Oh, yeah, of course. In what circumstance would that be good? Well, if somebody were threatening his wife and children, like their lives, then it'd be good to be able to just, you know, roundhouse, take him out, put him on the ground.

Yeah. And that's really the common... That's the distinction that most theologians have made when it comes to the command that you shall not murder is that they would understand that there's a recognition of implicit defense that's involved in them. It's also a prerequisite for not murdering someone that you also protect from murder because it's an immoral action.

So you can't just cherry pick the Bible verse and Romans up. I believe 14 when it says, "Live peaceably with all." Because number one, you got to read the whole verse and says, "Insofar as is dependent upon you to live peaceably with all." So there's a dependability on that that may not be met at every single circumstance. We're also called to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers.

We are to make peace and sometimes be conducting violence in a situation like we all mentioned. So what about fellowship though? What are we doing here? This is good for fellowship because... Well, you asked a question. It's good for men to do those things together, to learn how to be competent together, to go and do martial arts together, to wrestle together, to learn how to be competent together, right? And two men go to battle together.

Yeah, men go to battle together. So you have to be able to know how to battle in order to go to battle together. So you must be spiritually trained mostly in a minute.

In a minute sense, you also need to be physically ready. Yeah, that's why David Grace in Psalm, I believe 131, make my fingers ready for battle on my hands, ready for war, right? Like it's a prayer of his that he would be prepared bodily so that he would be able to go out into battle. Yeah.

There should also be our prayer that bodily, if it were to come, that we were called to protect our wives or our mothers, or our sisters, or our daughters, that we would have the capability to lose. But also even more than that, spiritually as well. Yeah.

Our Christian... What are Christian men supposed to do together? Like obviously we just laid out wrestling and spending time together. One thing we did here this weekend was we prayed together. Yeah.

So is it lame or is it feminine? Is it stupid? Is it not worth your time to get together with your bros and spend some time praying? You think that's a good activity for men? Yes. How comes it? It's a good activity because prayer is more like we pray for... This is what Jesus commends us to pray. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Earth as it is in heaven. So our prayer fundamentally is automatically more like in nature.

It's for simplifications for the saints of God. It's for thanksgiving of the one who granted us the power to overcome. It's by the thankfulness of the one who made us a kingdom

and preached to God to reign with his son.

Yeah. So it's automatically more like it. It's good because when you come together and prayer is the aligning of one's will through words to God.

And you pray to God you're all aligning yourself together. You mean this is why Psalm 133 says those who dwell in unity together, you're united by the will of God for a specific purpose. You guys want to add anything to that Noah? Yeah.

Yeah, that's a good one. It's like the purpose of our prayer is ultimately to bring about God's will on earth through his instrument humans. And yeah, and his will generally pertains to the establishment of his kingdom on earth and destroying the kingdom of darkness.

It's like that's what God's actively doing and how he's actively working in the world. He's establishing his kingdom and justice and righteousness. Right.

Yeah, that is definitely like a war like act in a world where spiritually evil has had a dominion for such a long time, but Christ is coming to overthrow that kingdom. And that's a battle that all Christians have to participate in whether they like it or not. Yes.

Yeah, great points. Prayer is very important for men to do together, just spur one another on to set examples for one another. And obviously to fight this battle through prayer, this is a big way that we do wage war is through our prayers.

Okay, last question. One other thing we talked about that was awesome was just the importance to be on God's creation. Why is it important for men to go on hunting trips together, hiking trips together to not just go sit and play video games together, but to get out and like actually interact with one another and talk to one another and do hard things together to go hike a mountain to go be at work out or do X, Y, and Z, you know.

Tell me a little something about that. Well, first off, I think that it's good to suffer with one another. So when you go and you're doing those trips, not the type of like, it's not like glamping, glorious camping, like actually going and doing it hardcore and realistically.

It's good because you're being united again. It's a physical representation of also another spiritual reality is that you're being united together for one specific purpose. So you're working together with men, we're building good tactic and strategy to accomplish specific tasks, you know, sweating with one another, you're working hard.

That's just good fundamentally for a person's body in general, because you should want to be a good steward of your body and take care of this and you can live as long as you can for the kingdom of God and to serve Him. It's good to go hunting because that's one way that you can provide for your family. That's a really good way for brothers to come

together and to provide for both of their families.

So it would be really good for them to get together and do that. But I really do think that the biggest importance of it is just, oh crap, should I turn right there? It's okay. Oh yeah, the biggest importance is this is one way in which God has revealed Himself, and that is general revelation.

He's revealed Himself through creation and through nature. So it's good to go and behold what the Lord has done and what He has made, because He is absolutely magnificent. Now it's less clear than special revelation, His Word.

We should seek His Word first and foremost, but you can't do away with revelation by nature just because it's less clear. So you get to again unite yourself for the purposes of God's glory and for your own good and His revelation. Noah, anything? Yeah, I'm pretty sure it's pretty sound.

I also think it's just important for men to go on an adventure together. I mean, a lot of stories and a lot of movies are just about a group of men who go on an adventure and they learn some meaningful lesson or grow in some sense through that, where otherwise if they had sat at home and done nothing, they would not have gained anything. So it's just that aspect of personal growth and development and yeah, the building of the relationship between brothers and this development of the character of a man.

Yeah, that's a really good point. I wanted to add one more thing to it that I forgot. Being a feminine is a sin.

1 Corinthians 6, 9, and 10. Go read it in King James Version because the ESV takes it out. But being a feminine physically is a sin.

Acting as a woman when you're a man is a sin. So if you just sit at home and play video games all day long, your hands become weak, your wrists become limp, and you're pudgy. Yeah, you become pudgy.

You're soft. We want hard men and that's what Jesus commends in John the Baptist is that He was a hard man. He didn't dress with soft clothing like soft men do and soft places like palaces, but He dressed like a hard man and because He Himself was a hard man.

So it's important to like, we can't be Gnostics and think that everything's spiritual. There's a real reality that if you look down and your wrist is limp very frequently, this is a sin because you're a feminine. You need to be strong.

You need to be masculine. And this doesn't mean obviously that you're able to bench press 300 pounds. That's not what we're talking about here.

But we're talking about a general stature of masculinity. Stand up straight. Sit with your back straight when you're sitting down.

Quit slouching, right? Don't stop grabbing stuff like you're you're going to break every little thing. Like just grab something like if you're yeah. So I guess that would just be my next point.

Playing video games and getting outside. Yeah, exactly. Yeah, don't be afraid to take risks.

Yeah, it's like, you know, be willing to stand up for what you believe in and for what's right. Know what's right. Right.

It's like simple little things that a lot of men have fallen away from. It's like, you know, even us, we're still like coming to a better understanding of what it means to be a man. But yeah, we're coming along.

Slowly but surely. Yeah, these are all good points. And these are this is what fellowship obviously we can't really speak to what fellowship between women is going to look like for Christian women.

But for Christian men, this is what it looks like. Well, we could speak to it. We could do that.

It doesn't matter if you're a woman to speak to something. Yeah, but just know how it plays out and what they talk about stuff. I mean, I don't know.

Yeah, but for men, we do know we talk about the things we do and the activities we do. And those are the kind of things that things the way men fellowship is they give glory to God through prayer and worship. They talk about God.

They obviously give glory to God and they do masculine things. The things that God has commanded us to do as men. That's what male fellowship, Christian fellowship looks like.

So that's what I wanted to talk about because I felt very encouraged by the bachelor party and all the guys hanging out. I just love seeing some of the guys I go to battle with. And it's important to see those guys and to be with those men and to have men that you can call your battle.

Warrior companions, you know. So that's important. Thanks for listening to the For The King podcast.

I'm going to read it real quick. Doxology and we can call it a day. First Timothy 1, 17, to the king of the ages, a mortal, invisible, the only God, the honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen. Solely day of Gloria. Roo.

[Music]