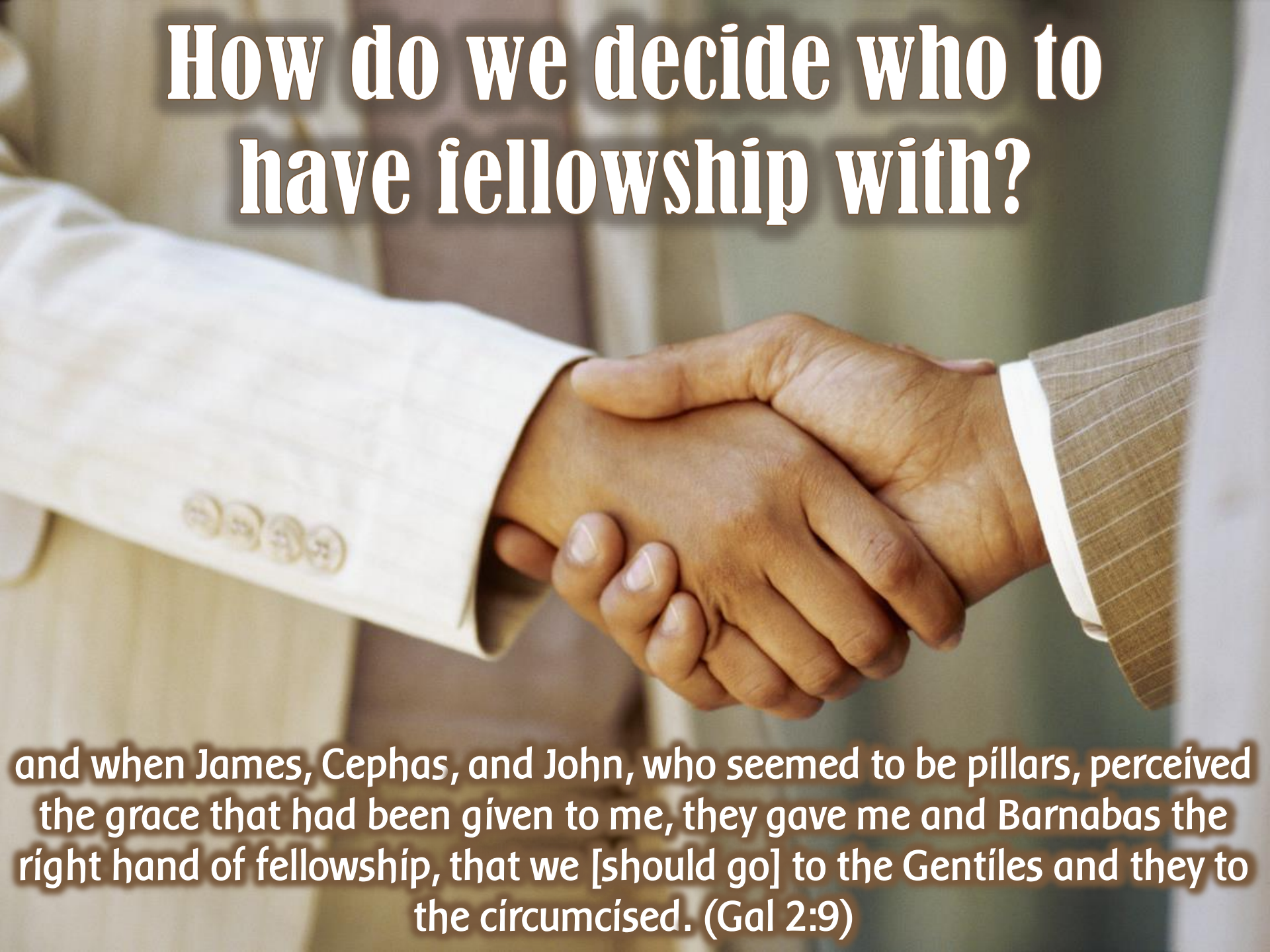


# How do we decide who to have fellowship with?



and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we [should go] to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. (Gal 2:9)

# What is fellowship?

- A share which one has in anything
- participation
- a gift jointly contributed to (Strong's)





# How do we decide who to have fellowship with?

**IMPORTANT!!!**

This is not the same as asking, "Who is my brother?"  
(see 2 Thess 3:14-15)

**DOUBLE IMPORTANT!!!**

It is also not the same as attendance at  
or visiting a church  
(Acts 18:4)

# Must we judge?

1. You already do – it is just a matter of whether it is biblical or not.
2. The Bible says you must:
  - as individuals (2 Jn 9-11)
  - as churches (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 5:1-5)
3. Who you commend and participate with reflects on you (3 Jn 5-8, Rom 16:1)
4. How else will you decide who to preach to? (Rom 10:1-3)
5. How else will we decide who to withdraw from? (2 Thess 3:14-15)





# Can the line of fellowship be as simple as baptism?

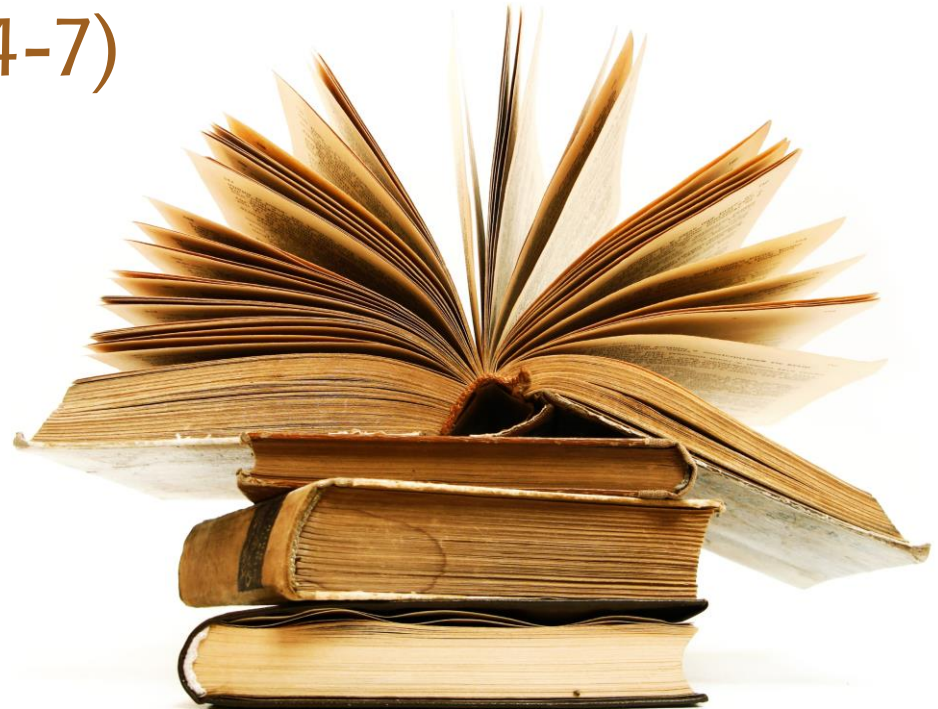
- What about those that depart from the faith?  
(1 Tim 4:1-3)
- Or those that are false teachers within the faith?  
(Acts 20:29-31)

# BAPTISM



# How about only having fellowship with those we totally agree with?

- Romans 14 is an entire chapter dedicated to how to get along when we don't agree on everything.
- There will always be knowledge gaps amongst God's people (1 Cor 8:4-7)



# Or maybe just the “Big” moral issues?

- Who decides what is “Big”?
- Sometimes fellowship is split over minor moral issues
  - Circumcision (Acts 15:1-2, 24)
  - Vegetarianism (1 Tim 4:3)
- On the other hand –  
who wouldn't count war  
as a big moral issue...  
and we aren't splitting  
over that!



**So how do we decide who to  
have fellowship with?!**

**NEXT WEEK!!!**

and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we [should go] to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. (Gal 2:9)