

Koinonia

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 2:40ff.

B. Koinonia means a lot more than Christian social activity. The New English Bible translates “koinonia” as “to share in the common life.”

C. Koinonia is a term that describes true fellowship in the body of Christ and also true fellowship with God. (1 John 1:2-3)

1. Fellowship with God is the source from which fellowship among believers springs.

2. The objective of our fellowship with other believers should be enhancing our fellowship with God. (1 John 1:6)

3. We are in relationship with Christ and gain our acceptance from God based on that relationship. (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

II. One of the principle usages of koinonia in the New Testament is “partnership” or “mutual participation.” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 2 Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9; Philippians 1:3-5)

A. We mutually belong to one another. As partners, we share each others’ pain, joy, and hardship. (Romans 12:5, 15; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 25-26)

B. We are to care for one another because we are one body. We need to protect each other, not gossip, criticize or condemn about one another’s failures or pain.

C. We share each others’ needs. (Romans 12:13)

III. Another use of koinonia in the New Testament is that we have a responsibility to share in each others’ material and ministry needs so that the needs of the body are being met. (Romans 15:26-27; 2 Corinthians 9:13; Hebrews 13:16; Philippians 4:14-15)

IV. Koinonia also implies a mutual spiritual sharing with one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

A. The objective of spiritual sharing is to help each other know God better, to challenge each other, and encourage one another. (Malachi 3:13-16)

1. We encourage each other from the Word of God and praying together.

B. There is a place for creating an atmosphere of mutual sharing with one another over food, as long as true fellowship actually occurs. (Revelation 3:20)

Application questions:

1. Are you currently materially partnering with any missionaries, ministries, or other believers?
How can you make this a habit in your life?

2. How can you create a context for mutually teaching each other and sharing God's Word with each other in your relationships with other believers?

3. How does the perspective that believers belong to each other influence your attitude toward other believers?
