

True Fellowship- Part 5

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I. Introduction.

A. The basic principles of fellowship are founded on the idea that we belong to each other. (Romans 12:5)

B. The most frequent use of the grammatical forms of “koinonia” is in the context of sharing material wealth.

II. The New Testament frequently encourages the “sharing” of material possessions. (Romans 12:13, 15:26-27; 2 Corinthians 8:4, 9:13; 1 Timothy 6:18; Hebrews 13:16)

III. Sharing is act of obedience. (Romans 15:27)

A. There is an obligation of relationship that involves meeting each other’s material needs. (2 Corinthians 9:13)

B. We are commanded to be generous- it is not optional. (1 Timothy 6:18)

1. This is an obligation out of love.

2. Generosity should be born of compassion. We must make other believers’ needs our voluntary responsibility because they belong to us. (1 John 3:17; Romans 12:13; Philippians 4:14)

3. Obligation does not exclude the joy of generosity. (2 Corinthians 9:5, 6, 13)

IV. Sharing is a joyful experience. (2 Corinthians 8)

V. Sharing is an experience that glorifies God. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)

A. Because of generosity, God will be thanked.

B. Sharing is both our act to give and God’s act to provide for other believers.

C. The mutual act of sharing bonds believers together.

VI. There are needs all around us and we need to apply certain principles of giving to our generosity.

A. Pray and ask God to bring current needs in our body of believers to our attention.

B. We also need to be regularly giving to the needs of believers (deacons’ fund, ministries, missions organizations). (1 Corinthians 16)

C. You will reap in proportion to what you sow. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

D. We should give what God has laid on our hearts to give, not under compulsion from someone else. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

E. We commit ourselves to giving and God enables us to meet those commitments. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

F. All of these principles of giving are couched in the context of giving to other believers who have need.

Application questions:

1. How has giving materially brought joy to you?

2. How does giving from the perspective that the other person belongs to you change your attitude toward giving?

3. How does giving to other believers glorify God?
