

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

23 – Sharing with God's people (5)
 > Koinonia <

In recent weeks, we have been talking about
SHARING.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:13 (NIV)

The New Testament Greek word translated here as "share" has a special meaning for God's people!

"Koinonia"

- A New Testament Greek word. (This is the noun form.)
- Refers to: fellowship, communion, participation, community, sharing, etc.

DEFINITION:
 "... an association involving close mutual relations and involvement—'close association, fellowship.' "

[Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 445). New York: United Bible Societies.]

AS WE'VE SAID BEFORE ...

This fellowship has to do with **"SHARING,"**
 not **"HANDOUTS."**

WE BUILD EACH OTHER UP!

✓ **SHARING:** BOTH DIRECTIONS
DOES involve "close mutual relations and involvement."


⊘ **HANDOUTS:** ONE DIRECTION.
Does NOT involve "close mutual relations and involvement."

I WANT MORE!

I FEEL DRAINED!

ALSO ...

It's **NOT** the empty talk and overstuffed bellies that many people pass off as "fellowship"



"Koinonia"

- A special word for Christians!

God's people have a type of fellowship and sharing that the *unsaved cannot* participate in.

It's **NOT** THAT THE UNSAVED AREN'T WELCOME ...



BUT RATHER...



★ **THEY AREN'T WILLING TO ENTER.** ★

THE WAY IS NARROW, AND THE "GATE" IS JESUS CHRIST

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.

John 10:9a (NLT)

No thanks, I've got my own views about God!

IT STARTS WITH THE GOOD NEWS!

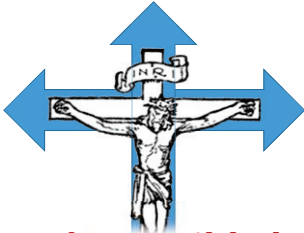
This koinonia/fellowship begins with **accepting** the apostle's testimony about Jesus.

We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard [about Jesus], so that you may have **fellowship** with us. ...

1 John 1:3a (NLT)

★ This is why *unsaved* people – including fake "Christians" – **cannot** have it! ★

Two dimensions to our fellowship



Made possible by JESUS CHRIST



First and foremost, it involves with FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

And our **fellowship** is with the *Father* and with *his Son, Jesus Christ*.

1 John 1:3b (NLT)

May ... the **fellowship** of *the Holy Spirit* be with all of you!

2 Cor. 13:14b (ISV)

★ Without this as our foundation, **NO** other aspect of koinonia/fellowship can exist! ★

**FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
brings blessings and obligations.**

**BLESSINGS
(Example)**

- ✓ **Sharing in God's grace
(undeserved kindness)**

... all of you became **partners** in God's grace together with me.

Philippians 1:7b (NET)

**ALL Christians share in these blessings
... and share them together.**

**BLESSINGS
(Examples)**

- ✓ **Being part of God's kingdom**

In Jesus we are **partners** ... in the Kingdom ...

Rev. 1:9b (NLT)

- ✓ **Sharing a common spiritual bond**

...our **common** faith...
... the salvation we **share**, ...

From Titus 1:4 Jude 1:3 (NIV)

[Uses the word "koinos" ("common"), which is related to "koinonia."]

**OBLIGATIONS
(Example)**

- ✓ **Sharing in Christ's suffering.
(We will also share in his glory.)**

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may **share** his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11 (ESV)

... but be happy as you **share** Christ's sufferings. Then you will also be full of joy when he appears again in his glory.

1 Peter 4:13 (GW)

**OBLIGATIONS
(Example)**

- ✓ **Being motivated by love, unity, humility, etc.**

Therefore, if there is ... any **fellowship** in the Spirit, ... complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2 (NET)


IN OTHER WORDS ... **IF** you have fellowship with GOD, it **must** influence how you interact with other Christians!

IN OTHER WORDS ... **IF** you have fellowship with GOD, it **must** influence how you interact with other Christians!

And **since** it's **impossible** to have fellowship with God if you choose to **disobey** him...

WE MUST CONCLUDE ... **IF** you have fellowship with GOD, it **will** influence how you interact with other Christians!

WE MUST CONCLUDE ...



**This fellowship with God enables
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S FAMILY.**

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S FAMILY.



God willing, we will look at this issue next time.

There's ONE MORE THING to know about fellowship with God...

Certain things are NOT compatible with koinonia/fellowship. We CANNOT share in them!

It just doesn't work!



CHOOSE! (ONLY 1 WAY)

PROHIBITIONS (EXAMPLES)

- ✓ **Sins that others commit.**
 - Do not **participate** [share] in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. 1 Tim. 5:22b (ISV)
- ✓ **The "deeds of darkness."**
 - Do not **participate** in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Eph 5:11 (NET)

PROHIBITIONS (EXAMPLE)

- ✓ **Attempting to have this type of fellowship with the unsaved. (It won't work, anyway.)**
 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what **fellowship** has light with darkness?
 - What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? 2 Cor. 6:14-19 (ESV)

So...

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS KOINONIA-SHARING?

★ Consider the fact that it is ***inseparably*** connected: ★

- Not only to ***blessings***,
- But also to ***obligations*** and ***prohibitions***.

Your Mission...

CONSIDER ... AND ... RESPOND!

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS?

OR ARE YOU WILLING TO PURSUE WHAT GOD OFFERS?

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HCLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" – Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®. Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ESV" – Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpcb.org)
- Scriptures marked "NET" – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright © 1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ISV" – Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, International Standard Version®, Copyright © 1996-forever by The ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission. (<https://www.isv.org/isbe/>)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Overstuffed person laying on plate – By User: (WT:shared) Krasnoudek at wts wiki/voyage (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Krasnal_obezymak_01.jpg (background removed)
- "Oh No" floor mat – By LeeGer (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File>Welcome_doormat.JPG (modified)

Credits (2)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Welcome mat – By The McClouds from Chicago burbs, USA (New welcome mat from my parents) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Welcome_mat_2.jpg (cropped)
- Jesus on cross – Arthur Charles Fox-Davies [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Complete_Guide_to_Heraldry_Flag184.png (cropped)
- Street sign (2 arrows in circle) – By Gigillo83, drawn by original of Vejrektoratet [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Denmark_road_sign_D11.8.svg
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2017.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.

Your Mission...

"Share with God's people ..."

Romans 12:13a

SHARING/FELLOWSHIP - "Koinonia"

A New Testament Greek word that describes the *close mutual association and fellowship* that exists between: 1) God and his people, and 2) the people themselves.

***THIS TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP CANNOT
EXIST BETWEEN PEOPLE
UNLESS IT FIRST EXISTS BETWEEN
THE PEOPLE AND GOD.***

Part 1 - Fellowship with God

On our own, we are powerless to have fellowship with God. Our sin has formed a barrier between us and God. Jesus Christ offers to remove this barrier and restore the fellowship, if we are willing to trust and follow him. Then, the Spirit of God will live within us, and give us both the desire and the ability to do the things that *allow* for fellowship with God (Philippians 2:13).

God makes it possible.

- God reconciles us to himself through Jesus' death on the cross (Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Colossians 1:20-22).

- Father, Son and Holy Spirit, working in us and for us, make this fellowship happen (Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:18; John 14:16-17).

Requirements for fellowship with God.

- Holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16); which includes a willingness to separate ourselves from sin and evil influences (Ephesians 5:8-11; James 4:4; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).
- Obedience (1 John 3:24; John 14:21, 23); a willingness to do God's will (Matthew 12:49-50; Luke 8:21); walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
- Sin is not an option! It forms a barrier to fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:5-6; Ephesians 4:17-24).

God-focused results (now and in the future).

- Fellowship with God/Jesus - in spirit [now] (Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 1:9); and physically [future] (Rev. 21:3; 22:1, 3).
- Union with Jesus in his death and resurrection (Romans 6:4-5); illustrated [now] by our participation/sharing in the bread and the cup (1 Corinthians 10:15-16).
- Sharing with Jesus in his sufferings [now] and in his glory [future] (Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 5:1, 4; Romans 8:17).
- God's power for a fruitful life [now] (John 15:4-5).

Resulting blessings shared with all God's people.

- Salvation (Jude 1:3); "the faith" (Titus 1:4); God's grace (Philippians 1:7); opportunity to escape the effects of sin (2 Peter 1:4); a "heavenly calling" (Hebrews 3:1); a future inheritance (Colossians 1:12); and many other blessings related to the good news (1 Corinthians 9:23).