

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.



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."*

I WANT MORE!

I FEEL DRAINED!

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

ALSO ...

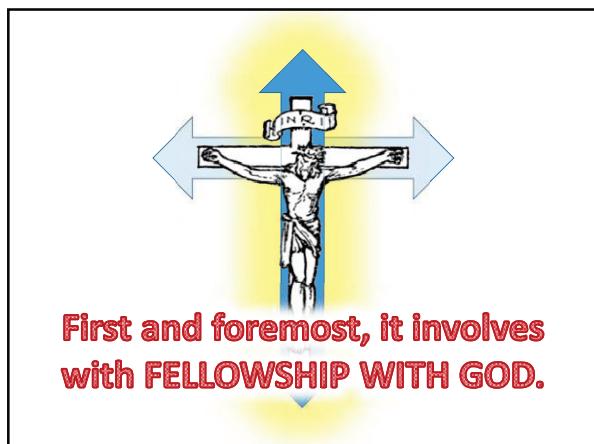
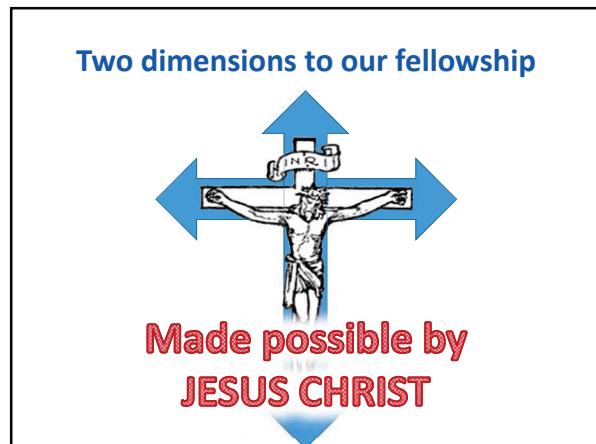
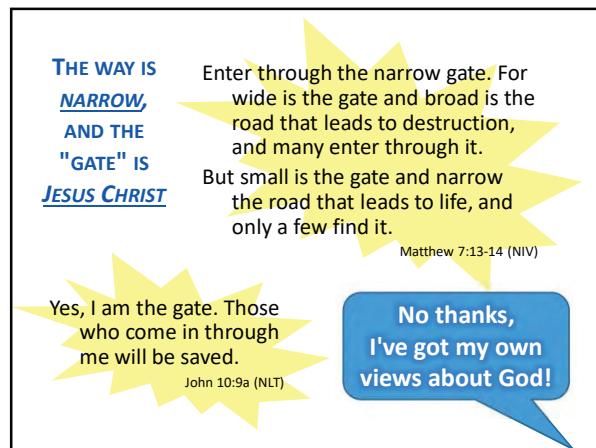


It's NOT the empty talk and overstuffed bellies that many people pass off as "fellowship"

"Koinonia"

- A special word for Christians!

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



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)

BLESSINGS (Examples)

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

- ✓ 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...

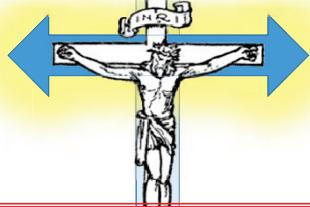
WE MUST CONCLUDE ...

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)

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Credits (2)

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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).