

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

24 – Sharing with God's people (6)
 > Koinonia <

A SPECIAL TYPE OF SHARING
AVAILABLE ONLY TO GOD'S PEOPLE

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

"KOINONIA" (PART 2)

"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.]

A type of "sharing"; NOT the same as "handouts."

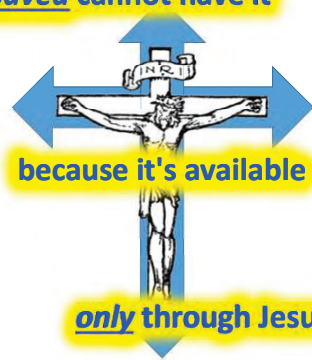
- ⊘ **HANDOUTS:** ONE DIRECTION.
 Does NOT involve "close mutual relations and involvement."
- ✓ **SHARING:** BOTH DIRECTIONS
 DOES involve "close mutual relations and involvement."

NOT the fake "fellowship" of many – a time of pointless chatter and overstuffed bellies

BURP!




The unsaved cannot have it

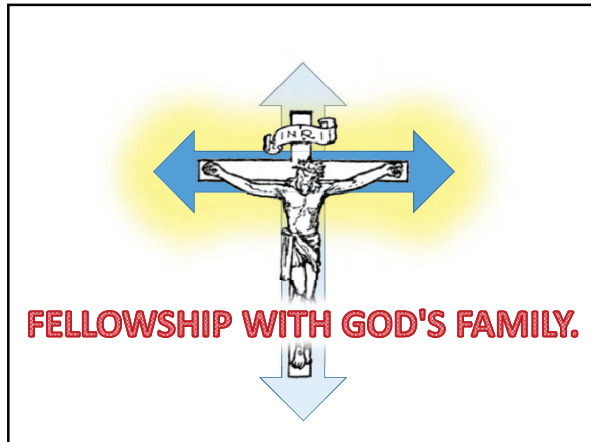


because it's available

only through Jesus Christ.



It begins with FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, which makes possible ...



All who belong to God are...
(among other things)

- **United in Christ**
... for you are all **one in Christ Jesus.**
Galatians 3:28b (NASB)
- **One family**
... the **family of believers.**
Galatians 6:10b (NIV)
- **One "body of Christ"**
... so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ,** and individually **members one of another.**
Romans 12:5 (NASB)

**We illustrate this fact,
every time we SHARE in "The Lord's Table."**

When we bless the cup of blessing aren't we **sharing** in the blood of Christ?
When we break the bread aren't we **sharing** in the body of Christ?
1 Cor. 10:16 (GW)

Our sharing occurs

in two directions!

We're actually sharing in Christ, and with each other!

**FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER
brings blessings and obligations.**

BLESSINGS (Examples)

- ✓ **Belonging to a community.**
And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.
Acts 2:42 (HCSB)
- ✓ **Encouragement during trials.**
... as you **share** in our sufferings, you will also **share** in our comfort.
2 Corinthians 1:7b (ESV)

BLESSINGS (Example)

- ✓ **Being part of a family that takes care of itself!**
Now all the believers were together and held all things in **common**.^{*} They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need.
Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people.
And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.
Acts 2:44-47 (HCSB)

* [The related word "koinos" ("common").]

OBLIGATIONS (Example)

- ✓ **Sharing in needs.**
[This may include many things, not just possessions.]

Our theme verse fits in this category!

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

A few verses are directed toward the RICH.

Command [the rich] to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and **willing to share.**
1 Tim. 6:18 (NIV)

OBLIGATIONS (Example)

✓ **Sharing in needs.**
 [This may include many things, not just possessions.]

Most verses are directed toward the ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

And let the one who is taught the word **share** all good things with him who teaches.
Galatians 6:6 (NASB)

And do not neglect to do good and to **share** what you have, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.
Hebrews 13:16 (NET)

OBLIGATIONS (Example)

✓ **Sharing in suffering.**

.... you **share** our sufferings, ...
2 Cor. 1:7 (GW)

At times you were publicly exposed to abuse and afflictions, and at other times you came to **share** with others who were treated in that way.
Heb 10:33 (GW)

✓ **Sharing in needs.**
 ✓ **Sharing in suffering.**

THIS SHARING IS LIKE SAYING:

★ "YOUR NEED IS MY NEED." ★

★ "YOUR SUFFERING IS MY SUFFERING." ★

... AND THEN RESPONDING IN A WAY THAT IS **APPROPRIATE** FOR THE SITUATION. →


Unfortunately...

Today, the "appropriate" response is NOT always what comes to people's minds.

The average person tends to think of a "sharing" that is closer to the concept of "free handouts."

SO...

- **FOR NEXT TIME:** We plan to look at various WRONG PERCEPTIONS OF SHARING.
- **FOR NOW:** Consider the GOALS of koinonia-fellowship.

What is the #1 GOAL of KOINONIA-FELLOWSHIP? 


- **YES:** Praise and thanks to God; God's glory seen in our lives.
- **YES:** Working together to grow in grace and in living for Jesus; focusing on things of eternal value.
- **NO:** Attaining health, wealth and happiness – all of which are temporary.

SOME OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF KOINONIA-FELLOWSHIP: 

- ★ ✓ **Praying together**
- ★ ✓ **Worshipping together**
- ★ ✓ **Encouraging each other**
- ★ ✓ **Searching for ways that we can glorify God in our lives.**
 (...even within our present circumstances.)

Your Mission...

CONSIDER ... AND ... RESPOND!



**DO YOU REALLY WANT
KONONIA-FELLOWSHIP?**

... or just the blessings that come with it?

- **Koinonia** starts with a *God-centered* focus.
- It includes *obligations* along with the blessings - and even some *prohibitions*.

What are you interested in?

- ✓ Are you willing to accept the obligations that exist toward both *God* and *neighbor*?

OR:

- ✓ Are you only interested in "handouts" – what you can get out of it?

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

"Share with God's people ..."

Romans 12:13a

FELLOWSHIP - with God's people

"Association based upon the sharing of something in common. Believers have fellowship with one another on the basis of their common fellowship with God, their participation in the blessings of the gospel and their common task of mission. True fellowship is demonstrated in concern for, and practical commitment to, one another."¹

***GOD HAS REMOVED THE BARRIER
TO FELLOWSHIP
AND HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER
AS ONE PEOPLE!***

Part 2 - Brought together for fellowship

When God brings us together, we share in a common salvation, a common mission, and a common love.

Brought together by the salvation we share.

- God calls us out of the world and into fellowship with him; and into his blessings - 1 Peter 2:5, 9-11; Matthew 18:19-20.
- God brings us into one family; we now have a right to call him "Father" - Matthew 23:8-9; Hebrews 2:11; Luke 8:21; 11:2.

- Fellowship based on the truth of Scripture, the message brought to us by the apostles - 1 John 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:2.
- Fellowship because of our union with Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit - Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 12:12-13, 27; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:3-6; Philippians 2:1-2.

Brought together for a common purpose, each with a special role.

- Partners in proclaiming the good news, and/or in helping others to do so - Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 1:5; Luke 10:2; 3 John 1:5-8; 2 Corinthians 11:9; Acts 13:2-3.
- Partners in times of adversity, caused by those who oppose the good news - Philippians 1:27-30; 4:14; Hebrews 10:32-34.
- Recognizing each other's gifts and abilities; working together - 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:5-8; 16:15-18; 1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 2:7-8.

Brought together in God's love and in love for God.

- Influenced by God's love, we are to express love to each other - John 13:34; 1 John 3:10; 4:10; Ephesians 5:1-2.
- United together, we are to express love to God (prayer, worship, etc.) - Acts 2:42; 12:12; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 14:26; Ephesians 5:9; Colossians 3:16; James 5:16.

If our fellowship does not match God's description of it, it's we who need to change, not God!

1. Quoted from: Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser.