

The Necessity of Koinonia

1 Peter 7-11

“Fellowship is a word we may use too lightly in our churches. The variety of uses in the New Testament reveals that koinonia involves a deeper level of fellowship than an informal social gathering. The essential element of koinonia is participation—Christ is what connects us. We should value all that we hold in common as followers of Christ regardless of cultural or denominational differences. The focus is always on what believers have in common. This is the key to understanding koinonia in the New Testament. So the next time you come across “fellowship” used in a churchy way, remember that fellowship should focus on what we all have in common: new life in Jesus Christ.” biblestudytools.com

Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to **fellowship (koinonia)**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

2 Cor. 9:13 *13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in **sharing (koinonia)** with them and with everyone else.*

Phil. 3:10 *10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and **participation (koinonia)** in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

- I. We must make sure that we are thinking biblically so that we can navigate the turbulent waters of this evil world system with our faith intact. Peter writes to instill in us the necessity of making sure that our hearts are right with Christ so that we can be clear minded and self-controlled in a world that is far from being clear minded and self-controlled about anything pertaining to “truth.” And he writes to instill in us the necessity of being clear minded and self-controlled toward one another so that we, as a church, can become a safe haven of genuine love and concern for one another in a world that couldn’t care less about your relationship with Christ.

Rom. 2:14-15

Luke 12:35-40, 49-56

John 15:18-21 *18“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.*

- II. As believers, how are we to deal with fear, trauma, and what could be in store for us from a world that hates Jesus Christ? The natural response of stress, anxiety, or self-preservation does not free us from arming ourselves with the same attitude Christ had concerning sin (4:1). It also doesn't offer an excuse to neglect loving and serving the body of Christ as a means whereby God expresses his grace through us to help us stand firmly in the faith. To neglect koinonia is to remove one of the most important means of grace Jesus has given us to cope with the painful trials many of us will go through and are going through.

1 Peter 4:7-10

Philemon 1:4-6

Koinonia *koy-nohn-ee'-ah* A Greek word **meaning** to be drawn together by intimate participation. It is often used to describe the idealized state of fellowship, prayer and service within the early Christian church.

1 Thess. 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Hebrews 10:24,25 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- III. There are supernatural things going on when we meet together to praise and worship Jesus Christ. A Spirit filled church is a church where the Holy Spirit expresses himself as a grace giver, where Jesus speaks as a truth giver and where God the Father is rightfully exalted above all other gods. All this incredible, glorious, supernatural working of God can only **fully** take place in the corporate setting of believers who come together for the expressed purpose of honoring the Lord for our salvation.

1 Peter 4:11-12

Psalm 100:4-5 *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.*