

# *Learn To Share*

*Devoted To The Fellowship*

Vital Signs #3

## I. Introduction

- A. I'm sure you've noticed, children don't like to share. "Mine" is one of the first words they learn. They all have their favorite toys that no one else is supposed to touch. Which usually is just all the toys they can see at that moment. And it's amazing, a bunch of kids can be playing in the same room, having so much fun, when all of a sudden, one child has to go home. And she'll leave her toys on the floor, and what ensues is a feeding frenzy of who will get her toys, "It's mine!" one grabs. "I saw that first!" another shouts. "Well, I saw it yesterday!" another child objects. Children don't like to share. We understand that's a sign of immaturity.
1. So, maybe it's a little humbling to realize how often in Scripture Jesus has to teach us, His children, to share. Being stingy is not saintly. It's certainly not Christ-like. One day Jesus disciples were grabbing up prizes for themselves, when Jesus stopped them and said, *"<sup>45</sup>Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45). Jesus taught His followers that life is about giving and serving, not taking and hoarding.
  2. Just think of how much the Lord has shared with us. He gives us our daily blessings, He has shared in our flesh and blood, He has shared with us His Word, and He will share with us His eternal home. Our Savior teaches us to share!
- B. Now, little children may not like to share, but God's children are to be known for it. And that's why one of the first things that new born church did in Acts 2, was *"devoted themselves to the fellowship"* (Acts 4:42). They didn't order their salvation "take out" style to be consumed in the darkness of their own living room. No, their life had a new priority, a new devotion—not to self, but to the saints—they devoted themselves to the fellowship of believers.
1. In the New Testament one of the clear vital signs for healthy churches, was they were a people devoted to the fellowship. Jesus had successfully taught them to share their lives with others.
  2. This is our third lesson in our "Vital Signs" series. The first two marks of healthy churches were God-ward. Healthy churches trust God's promises, and they obey God's commands. But this third mark of healthy churches is others-oriented. The God who loves the church wants us to do so as well. A healthy church is a people who strive to be as devoted to the church as God is, who purchased it with the blood of His own Son (Acts 20:28).
  3. You see, the average church is too much like a bag of marbles—we scratch against each other and make a little noise, but we don't affect each other too much. But the church should be more like a bag of grapes that is meshing together that produces a sweet-tasting juice because of the interaction. That's what we want, but it's going to take a devotion to the fellowship.
- C. Before we consider "What" that means, let's first see "Why" it's important. Why does the church of Jesus Christ need to learn to share?

## II. Why We Need To Share

- A. *The World Is A Discouraging Place.* First, we need to learn to devote ourselves to the fellowship because the world is a discouraging place. Americans are in fact the loneliest people in the world. There are so many people, and so little personal contact. Think about it, we used to build houses with large front porches full of chairs and swings. Now, we build back decks shrouded by a privacy fence. And this church is to be a contrast to that coldness!
1. In addition, just living in this world you can get the impression that everybody is cheating, everybody is doing drugs, and everybody is greedy. And you can begin to think you're all alone, that there's no one left in the world who believes like you do. No one else that disciplines their children, no one who abstains from immorality, nobody who gives their money away. But when you have fellowship with Christians you realize you're not alone. It's a boost to your spirit when every week you see dozens of people who share your values and are trying to walk in the light.
  2. Remember when Elijah was so discouraged that he wished that the Lord would just take his life? One of the reasons Elijah was despondent was that he thought he was all alone. He told God, *"I'm been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too"* (1 Kings 19:14).
    - a. God came to Elijah and gave him hope. Besides ministering to his physical needs and giving him a new task, God reminded him that he really wasn't alone. The Lord told Elijah, *"I reserve seven thousands in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."* (1 Kings 19:18). There were seven thousands people still left who were on Elijah's side! With that news, Elijah felt renewed and returned to his duties.
  3. For the first few years of my preaching life I didn't understand why Monday's and Tuesday's were so hard for me. I put my heart and soul into Bible classes and preaching on Sunday. I rejoiced talking to seekers after service, and sharing words of encouragement with believers. And I went home Sunday feeling great, on the top of the world. But on Monday I'd have the blues.
    - a. Then one day I was talking to an older preacher I respect. It was Monday, and he sounded down. I asked, "What's up?" And he talked about he was tired from a hard week, and his concerns for the church, some new Christians he was worried about, and then he said, "But, I often have these times after Sunday. You know, it's the Elijah experience—when you've just won a great victory on Mount Carmel Satan will try to make you think it didn't matter, nothing has changed, you'll still alone! But you're not."
    - b. And that was true! Here was a man who hungered for fellowship just like I did, and that fellowship has blessed my life many times since.
  4. You see, the world is a discouraging place, and when you are devoted to the fellowship you realize you're not alone. God stated a fundamental truth of creation, *"It is not good for man to be alone."* And that's why there is a real hunger for community in our world today, and the church is to model that sense of true community by devoting themselves to the fellowship.

B. ***The World Is A Dying Place.*** Secondly, we need to be devoted to the fellowship, not only because the world is a discouraging place, but because the world is a dying place. Sin deceives and destroys lives every day. Just as in the Garden sin separates us from God, and it also divides us from one another. And you can see it right here in this area. There is strife, and contention, and division in marriages, with children, in schools, in our government, in business. It's a cut-throat, live for yourself, world. And the church is to be a contrast to that discord.

1. In fact, Jesus told us that it will be our fellowship, even more than our doctrine that will tell a sinful and dying world that we belong to Christ. He said in John 13,

**“<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**  
(John 13:34-35)

On the night before His crucifixion Jesus prayed for the church. He prayed that we might experience the unity He was going to the cross to secure, and I want you to listen closely for the purpose of this unity. It was not selfish, so we can have a sweat place to go on the weekends. It was evangelistic. There is something in our unity that makes the sinner see Christ.

**“<sup>20</sup>I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup>that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that You sent Me.** <sup>22</sup>And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know that You have sent Me,** and have loved them as You have loved Me.”** (John 17:20-23)

One reason it's so important to be devoted to the fellowship is not just because it edifies the believers, but because it evangelizes the lost. There is something in the God created oneness, there is something about the way we devote ourselves to one another in spite of our flaws, and our differences, there is something about our “I'll love you *even...*” kind of fellowship that draws people to Christ.

- a. They may not be interested in, or even understand the intricacies of our doctrinal discussions, but they know, “When people are devoted to each other like that, it must come from God, because I haven't seen anything like that on earth!”
2. (Optional) The twelve apostles were a diverse group. Simon the Zealot was a patriot—a kind of redneck to hated the Roman government. Matthew was a tax collector—a collaborator with Rome. That would be like Rush Limbaugh and Ted Kennedy serving on the same committee! But Jesus united them. Thomas and Peter were opposites too. Peter was impulsive, a confident personality, quick to believe, and often fickle. Thomas was melancholy, a thinker, slow to respond but deeply committed. All these personalities must have occasionally unnerved each other. But they were united by a cause bigger than their own egos and personalities. Jesus united that diverse group of disciples by motivating them to sacrifice their egos in serve to each other.
  - a. The twelve apostles form a kind of microcosm of the church. In the church we enjoy fellowship in spite of our diversity. We have young and old, wealthy and poor, healthy and disabled, Democrats and Republicans, black and white,

baby Christians and mature believers. Sometimes there is little in common except the high calling of Jesus Christ. But that is enough.

3. In Acts 2, that early church was distinguished by its fellowship. They devoted themselves to one another, so they worship together regularly, they ate together, they meet each other's need. They were devoted to one another. And the last verse says, *"They enjoyed the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). The church exploded in growth because the people loved being together. When you get a group of people together who genuinely believe something and who really enjoy each other, it's such a contagious atmosphere that you can't keep people away from it.
- C. We need people here to be devoted to this fellowship, because saints need edifying (to know they are not alone), and sinners need saving (to know they don't need to be alone). Now, that you see the "Why," let's get to the "What!" What is "fellowship," and what does it mean to be devoted to it?
  1. The word in the New Testament often translated "fellowship" is "Koinonia." It comes from the root word "*Koinos*" which means "common." And it describes what we "share in together" as Christians. The word is used 26 times in Scripture, but the description and expression of "Fellowship" is found on almost every page. Because "fellowship" is a vibrant part of every healthy church.
  2. And healthy churches will experience that fellowship in three different relationships.

### III. What We Need To Share

- A. ***We Share In The Lord.*** First, we share in the Lord. In fact, this is the most fundamental meaning of the word "fellowship." What binds us together is that we are bound to the Lord. You see, this word "fellowship" is often used to describe the common relationship we share with the Lord. For example, in 1 John 1:3 we read, *"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship [together] is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."* Think about that, we, together have "Fellowship with the Father."
  1. Not only that, but in writing to the sharply divided church in Corinth, Paul headed off that foul attitude right from the beginning by reminding them, *"<sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 1:9). "Now," Paul says, "Express that fellowship toward one another."
    - a. In fact, do you know we come together every week and partake of a meal that reminds us our fellowship with Jesus is real. We sometimes call it the "Lord's Supper," but Scripture also calls it a "communion." It's this same word "Fellowship," "koinonia." In 1 Corinthians 10:16 it reads,  
*<sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion [fellowship] of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion [fellowship] of the body of Christ? [Not watch for the point...] <sup>17</sup>For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread."* (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

Every week we remind ourselves that we have fellowship with Jesus, because we share in the blessings of His death. And Paul's point! If I share in the

blessings of that death, and you share in the blessings of that death, then we are one—we have fellowship with one another. Do you see why God wanted the Lord Supper to be a collective act of worship? Because it praises Jesus for what He has done, and it reminds us who we are to be!

- b. Bryan Leech captured this truth in his song, “Come Share The Lord”

***Come Share The Lord***

We gather here, in Jesus' name,  
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame,  
for through the loving Son, the Father makes us one,  
come take the bread come drink the wine come share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs,  
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs,

He joins us here, He breaks the bread,  
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead,  
the One we love the most, is now our gracious host,  
come take the bread come drink the wine come share the Lord.

We are now a family, of which the Lord is head,  
though unseen He meets us here, in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon, where angels sing,  
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King,  
now we anticipate, the feast for which we wait,  
come take the bread come drink the wine come share the Lord.

2. And if that were not enough, the Bible says we have fellowship with the Father, and with the Son, and with the Holy Spirit. Paul writes that we have the *“fellowship of the Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1; 2 Peter 1:4) who dwells in all the people of God.
3. You put that all together and you've got a powerful basis of Christian fellowship. We are born by the will of the same Father, redeemed by the blood of the same Son, and indwelt by the same Spirit. We have fellowship with God. And that's why in loving gratitude we devote ourselves to fellowship those who have fellowship with Him.
4. And so, the first way this word “fellowship” is used in Scripture is to describe the wonderful truth that we share in the Lord.

B. ***We Share With The Lost.*** Secondly, it was a real delight to discover this word “fellowship” was also used to describe the way we share the gospel with the lost. It's what I came to think of as “Sharing to save.” Some of you may remember back in the 80's (before mp3, and DVD's) Sony developed a video recorder called Beta. It was superior in every way to its rival format called VCR. But Sony made a critical error it kept its Beta technology to itself. It would not share it's tremendous discovery with other vendors, they wanted to keep all the benefits for themselves. And as a result not Sony, not anybody benefited from the better technology. And Beta recorders quickly disappeared from sight.

1. That little story reminds me of too many churches. We have the key to eternity. We have the answer to sin. We have the playbook to abundant living. And if we are content to just keep the benefits for ourselves, and not share it with the world, we will quickly disappear from sight. We must share it to save it! And there were three ways the New Testament church shared the gospel with the lost.

Supported  
Teachers

2. *They Shared Their Possessions.* First, they shared their possessions so the gospel could be preached. In Philippians 1 Paul thanked God for the Corinthians because their fellowship blessed the lost. He wrote, *“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.”* (Philippians 1:4-5). In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter we learn that several times the church sent Paul money so that he could be free to preach the gospel. Healthy New Testament churches were concerned about sharing the gospel with the world, and they sacrificially and continually gave to make that happen.
  - a. And the wonderful thing is that Paul calls that kind of giving a “fellowship.” In other words, they could rejoice that they sharing in the work of saving people’s souls, because they generously gave. When we do things to reach this community, and send money to support preaching in other places, we are joining together to share the most important blessing the world can know.

Encouraged  
Teachers

3. *They Shared Their Words.* But, it went further than just giving money. They also showed their fellowship by verbally encouraging those who were teaching the lost. In Galatians 2:9, Paul met with believers in Jerusalem. He told them of his missionary work. And it says, *“<sup>9</sup>When James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”* (Galatians 2:9). I don’t know exactly what the right hand of fellowship was. In some churches it’s been a right hook to the jaw! But whatever it was, it was deeply encouraging. It was a way of saying, “You guys are on the right track. Keep up the good work. Go take the gospel to those Gentiles, and those Jews. We’re with you brothers!”
  - a. “We’re with you,” that’s fellowship. And there’s nothing more encouraging to an evangelist than to hear people tell you, “We’re with you. I’m praying for you. Keep up the good work. Go get ’em!”

Became  
Teachers

4. *They Shared Their Deeds.* Also, they shared the gospel with the lost, not only by their money and their words, but with their deeds. Paul often refers to his co-laborers as “koinonoi,” (coin-oh-nigh) “my partners,” my “Fellows” as they joined together in sharing the gospel.
5. My brothers and sisters we devote ourselves to the fellowship when we join together to share the gospel with the lost. We willingly share our possessions, we joyfully give our words of encouragement, and we might even hook ourselves right in there besides others in the doing of it. Healthy churches devote themselves to that kind of fellowship! They share to save.

C. *Share With The Saved.* Thirdly, healthy churches share in the Lord, they share with the lost, and they share with the saved. The first two aspects of “fellowship” have Christians facing in two directions. When we concentrate on what we share in the Lord, we are all facing the Lord. When we concentrate on what we share with the lost, we are all facing the world. But, with this third aspect of “fellowship” we concentrate on what we share with one another, and we are no longer facing the same direction: we are gathered in a circle, facing each other.

1. We are not to be like a group of people on an airplane. In an airplane you sit beside your fellow-passengers. You are all going the same direction, but you have no fellowship, no true commitment or interest in one another.

- a. We are to be like a family gathered around a table. We talk to each other. We have common goals, and common interest, and a common relationship. We all give, and we all receive. We're expected to be jointly involved with each other, and with our family goals.
2. *Share Your Concern [Love], Liberally.* One of the clearest signs of a healthy New Testament church was how they loved one another. They were genuinely concerned for each other. In our world there is so little concern for individual people. Our world is starved for someone who cares. And in this church there are many people who need to know you care about them. In fact, there is too much need for love than can be supplied by preachers, elders, and deacons. If we're going to know the love we should every member is needed.
  - a. It's what Jesus taught us was the new commandment: *"<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."* (John 13:34). This genuine concern for each other was a continual mark of a church doing well. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, a wonderful statement,
 

*"<sup>9</sup>But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; <sup>10</sup>and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more."* (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

 They were doing it, and still Paul urges them to do it more and more! The apostle Peter said, *"If you've truly purified your souls by obeying the truth it will be seen in a sincere love for the brethren."* (1 Peter 1:22).
  - b. Do you really care about the lives and the souls of the people of this church? That's what it means to be devoted to the fellowship! And, you know, it also says something about the reality of your own relationship with God! John wrote,
 

*"<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." ...*  
*"<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."* (1 John 4:7, 11-12)
  - c. To say, "I don't need the church," completely miss the purpose of the church. The church is the body of Christ, and how can you love Christ and treat His Body as an irrelevance? The Lord hasn't given you the option to say, "I believe in Jesus, but I don't want anything to do with the church." When you attached yourself to the head, that makes you a part of the body. The body may have scars, blemishes, inadequacies, and maybe even paralysis. But you can't have life apart from the body. When you are devoted to the fellowship, you share with the saints all your love and concern.
3. *Share Your Possessions [Things], Sacrificially.* Now, this next discovery will shock you, it did me. In the New Testament the word "fellowship" is used to describe the sharing of possessions more than any other activity. In other words, the dominate way the New Testament church demonstrated their devotion to the fellowship was by sacrificially giving to propel the kingdom through preaching, and care for the believers through benevolence. That's so shockingly different to how the word is used today. We use the word "fellowship" today to describe food

and fun. But in the New Testament it was related to showing our love for the saints by sacrificially giving to meet their needs. That's devotion to the fellowship.

- a. For example, in Acts 2, when that ideal church "devoted themselves to the fellowship," what did they do? Verse 44 says, "*Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common (koinos), and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*" (Acts 2:44). They expressed their fellowship in Christ, by sharing their goods with every believer who had a need.
- b. In fact, so close was this connection between fellowship and collecting money in the New Testament church, that the word for "contribution" and "fellowship" were the same word! In Romans 15:26 Paul says,

*"<sup>26</sup>For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution [Koinonia] for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem."* (Romans 15:26)

In other words, when they gave their money, it wasn't an impersonal thing they were expected to do, to keep the lamps running. No, it was an expression of their deep feelings of fellowship with other believers. Now, that will make giving joyful!

- c. And it will also make giving sacrificial! When the church in Macedonia heard some of their brothers and sisters were in need it says, in 2 Corinthians 8:1,

*"<sup>1</sup>And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us [Now, here it is...] for the privilege of sharing [koinonia] in this service to the saints."* (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

Poor as they could be, but sacrificial, generous givers because they were devoted to the saints!

- d. You see, when you are devoted to the fellowship, when you have learned to share, then giving takes on a whole new joy and priority in your life. I might ask you, what does your pocketbook say about how devoted you are to the fellowship!? For all your words to the otherwise, that's a vital sign that doesn't lie.
4. *Share Your Commitment [One-Another's], Continually.* When it comes to practically demonstrating your devotion to the fellowship, let me give you something to look out for. Look for the "one another" commands of Scripture. There are dozens of them. They describe in detail what it means to be devoted to the fellowship.
    - a. *Restrain Destructive Habits.* It means there will be some things you'll quit doing. You'll stop "biting," "devouring," "provoking," "judging," and "envying" one another. You'll stop "speaking evil" and "grumbling" against one another.
    - b. *Express Constructive Attitudes.* True love for each other will express itself positively in a desire to "build up" one another, by "receiving" one another, and being "kind" and "tenderhearted," "forgiving," and "forbearing" with one another. It means you will obey the command to "serve" one another and

practice “hospitality” without grumbling toward one another. You will “admonish,” and “instruct,” and “submit,” and comfort one another. You’ll “pray for one another” and “great one another.”

- c. And I haven’t even begun to exhaust the list of one another texts! A healthy church takes these commands of fellowship very seriously.
- D. But, you know, it’s not just children who have a hard time sharing, is it? We don’t like to share our time, our money, our lives, we want to keep it all for ourselves. Healthy churches, however, have learned to share! And as a result, they experience enriching relationships, and make the kingdom of heaven winsome to a lonely world.
  1. My friends, we’ve been called not to just understand New Testament fellowship, but to practice it. This sermon must become your service. And to do that, I go back again to that first passage. The newborn church in Acts 2 *“Devoted themselves to the fellowship.”* We’ve thought about the last word in that sentence, I want to close by thinking about the first word, “Devoted.” The word “devoted” speaks of priority. In other words, they made the fellowship a priority! That’s what healthy churches do. So, how can we? Two suggestions.

#### IV. Make Sharing A Priority

- A. ***Make Time To Be With Believers.*** First of all, make time to be with believers. How can we obey those “one another” commands unless we regularly fellowship with one another and build relationships with each other? We have three times a week we come together as a church. This is a perfect time to take that first step toward deeper relationships with people, and maintain your association with them. Then, take that next step and have them into your home. Build them up in the faith, build up who we are a church.
  1. I believe the problem with many of us is we’ve got too many other priorities in our lives we don’t have time to devote ourselves to the saints!! We’ve got ourselves over extended at work. We have our discretionary time filled up with trips, and activities, and shows, and fun that are all for our own pleasure. We’ve got our money tied up with all kinds of things that don’t bless the kingdom of God. And we just don’t have time, energy, money, or brain power left to hardly think of the fellowship, much less be devoted to it!
  2. For most of us, to obey this command to devote ourselves to the fellowship, we’re going to have to reprioritize our lives. We’re going to have to get the focus off of self, off of this world, and start thinking about our brothers and sisters who are starving for someone to care. We’re going to have to stop watching so much TV, and surfing the web for what we want, and stop thinking of “me” time as a right. And start using our evenings, and our Saturday’s and Sunday’s, and take days off from work, just for the express purpose of devoting ourselves to the fellowship. That’s what a healthy church looks like. Start with you Day-timer and make some changes.

B. ***Give Things To Advance The Kingdom.*** If learning to share your time is hard, the second will scare away most fleshly minded people. To devote yourself to the fellowship give things to advance the kingdom. The honest truth is that most American believers, most believers right here in this church have so much money and things tied up in our own pleasures, if we would release them to be used in the kingdom there is no telling what marvelous things could be done, and how far the gospel could be spread.

1. What does your pocketbook say about what you value? What does your credit card say about what you value? For most of us, we could simplify our finances, and sell our toys, and if we just had enough faith, we would have more than we ever needed to advance the kingdom of God. But we can't hardly help anybody, or give to any gospel preacher, or help the local church, because we're drowning in a pool of self-pleasure.
2. Start using your possessions to advance the kingdom. You may need to evaluate what you give to have fellowship in the works of this church. You may need to open up your home, fix a meal, and have some people over. You may need to open your eyes to a need in this church, and go up and give someone a check you know they could really use. But, in some way, use these perishable things of dust to make an eternal impact! Learn to share! And devote yourself to the fellowship.

"Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are."  
-- James W. Frick

**“do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16)**

C. Of course, these things become second nature, if you first give yourself to God (2 Cor. 8:5). For when you give yourself to Him, sharing is natural, because it's what He's all about. You may not have a fellowship with Him today, and I want you to know He shared of Himself so that you could. He came in the flesh, died on the cross, and raised from the dead, so you would never be alone again. And if you want fellowship with Him, and His people, then today come and confess your faith and be baptized to have your sins taken away.

# ***“Fellowship” Word Study***

*To Determine Direction of Fellowship In Scripture*

<p><b>2842 κοινωνία</b> [<i>koinonia</i>; koy nohn ee ah] n f. From 2844; TDNT 3:797; TDNTA 447; GK 3126; 20 occurrences; AV translates as “fellowship” 12 times, “communion” four times, “communication” once, “distribution” once, “contribution” once, and “to communicate” once. 1 fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse. 1a the share which one has in anything, participation. 1b intercourse, fellowship, intimacy. 1b1 the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office). 1c a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship.</p>		
[Acts 2:42]	“themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and”	S to S
[Romans 15:26]	“and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem”	S to S (MG)
[1 Corinthians 1:9]	“through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”	S to G
[1 Corinthians 10:16]	“the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread”	S to G
[2 Corinthians 6:14]	“righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”	S to W
[2 Corinthians 8:4]	“with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints”	S to S (MG)
[2 Corinthians 9:13]	“Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,”	S to S (MG)
[2 Corinthians 13:14]	“Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”	S to G
[Galatians 2:9]	“and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles”	S to S
[Philippians 1:5]	“prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day”	S to S (MG)
[Philippians 2:1]	“consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and”	S to G
[Philippians 3:10]	“power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to”	S to G
[Philemon 6]	“all the saints; and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective”	S to S or W
[Hebrews 13:16]	“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”	S to S (MG)
[1 John 1:3]	“proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is”	S to G & S
[1 John 1:6]	“darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness”	S to G
<p><b>Legend:</b> S = Saint      G = God      W = World      (MG) = Monetary Giving</p>		

<p><b>2844 κοινωνός</b> [<i>koinonos</i> /koy no nos/] n m. From 2839; TDNT 3:797; TDNTA 447; GK 3128; 10 occurrences; AV translates as “partaker” five times, “partner” three times, “fellowship” once, and “companion” once. 1 a partner, associate, comrade, companion. 2 a partner, sharer, in anything. 2a of the altar in Jerusalem on which the sacrifices are offered. 2a1 sharing in the worship of the Jews. 2b partakers of (or with) demons. 2b1 brought into fellowship with them, because they are the authors of heathen worship.</p>		
[Matt. 23:28-30]	“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’”	N/A
[Luke 5:8-10]	“For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.”	N/A
[1 Corinthians 10:17-20]	“Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? 19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.	S to G
[2 Corinthians 1:5-7]	“But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.	S to S
[2 Corinthians 8:23]	“As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.”	S to S
[Philemon 17]	“If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.”	S to S
[Hebrews 10:33]	“partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.”	S to S (MG)
[1 Peter 5:1]	“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed”	S to S & G
[2 Peter 1:4]	“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”	S to G
<p><b>Legend:</b> S = Saint      G = God      W = World      (MG) = Monetary Giving</p>		

<p><b>2843 κοινωνικός</b> [<i>koinonikos</i> /koy-no-nee-kos/] adj. From 2844; TDNT 3:809; TDNTA 447; GK 3127; AV translates as “willing to communicate” once. 1 social, sociable, ready and apt to form and maintain communion and fellowship. 2 inclined to make others sharers in one’s possessions, inclined to impart, free in giving, liberal.</p>		
[1 Timothy 6:16-18]	“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”	S to S & W

### **Words Related To Fellowship:**

1. **3352 μετοχή** [*metoche /met-okh-ay/*] n f. From 3348; TDNT 2:830; TDNTA 286; GK 3580; AV translates as “fellowship” once. **1** a sharing, communion, fellowship.

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what **partnership** have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?<sup>1</sup>

2. **3353 μέτοχος** [*metochos /met-okh-os/*] adj. From 3348; TDNT 2:830; TDNTA 286; GK 3581; Six occurrences; AV translates as “partaker” four times, “partner” once, and “fellow” once. **1** sharing in, partaking. **2** a partner (in a work, office, dignity).

“When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break; **7** so they signaled to their **partners** in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. (Luke ?)

**8** But of the Son *He* says,  
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

**9** “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You  
With the oil of gladness above Your companions.”<sup>2</sup>

**1** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;<sup>3</sup>

**14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,<sup>4</sup>

**8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (2 Co 6:13). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>2</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Heb 1:7). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>3</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Heb 3:1). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>4</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Heb 3:14). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>5</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Heb 12:7). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.