



Koinonia

As for Me and My House Series

Scripture Reading

[Philippians 2:1-2](#) "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

Introduction

As we are transitioning back from our summer vacations, whether it was a busy summer or a restful one, I felt the Holy Spirit invite me into a study on an old yet "complete" word. It's the word "KOINONIA." It's a Greek word that doesn't have just 1 English word translation. It actually needs many English words to describe it so that we fully understand this phenomenon. It's a word that is missing from many churches today; it's missing from the culture of our time; it's missing from our vocabulary, and I believe it's a word that if truly understood would be much rather preferred by many of us, and I'm going to break it down for you for you to truly see it's VALUE to the Body of Christ as a whole. And as we begin this "As for Me and My House" series, perhaps today, we start with our Heavenly Father's House and what truly matters to Him.

What is Koinonia?

- **Fellowship:** It highlights the shared life and community among believers.
 - the shared life, the shared experiences, the coming out of our shells and sharing the 411 of our lives.
 - the bonding and relationship of the believers
 - the growing aspect of community as the fellowship becomes a place where faith and confidence in Christ and one another is built
 - genuine love and concern for one another
- **Communion:** It emphasizes the spiritual relationship and intimate connection with Christ and fellow believers.
 - intimate connection with Jesus where we can be close and vulnerable with Jesus
 - not just to know Him but to experience being known by Him
 - intimate connection with fellow believers and to experience what it means to know and be known by others and seen for who we really are.
 - this is where true brotherhoods and sisterhoods emerge
- **Partnership:** It implies a shared purpose and a common commitment to spiritual goals.
 - embracing the shared purpose of discipleship making sharing Jesus with others but also being in partnership on our Ephesians 2:10 callings
 - sharing of resources, information, material things, food, belongings, opportunities

Koinonia is also used in reference to sharing in Christ's sufferings, participation in the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Deeper Than Small Groups

This is deeper than what some churches call Small Groups.

- small groups are like facebook groups
 - you join a group where they are discussing something you're interested in
 - and there's always someone sharing something on the same similar topic
 - and you'll always offer a like or a heart
 - and you'll tend to agree and save or share the posts in there
 - and you'll be tempted to think you've found your tribe but you really found your bubble
- disciple making groups are critically different
 - iron sharpens iron
 - accountability is a necessity
 - agreement isn't a characteristic of koinonia and agreement comes when we put love above disagreements
 - you're challenged to think more like Christ and less like each other
 - instead of feeling like you're invited in, you realize that you're being called out!
 - out of your bubble, out of your comfort zone, out of your norm, out of yourself and immersing more in Christ.

Isn't it ironic that a God that cannot be so easily defined, would desire something for us that we can't easily put into one English word.

- It's multifaceted, yet so simple.

- It's layered, yet so direct
- it makes so much sense yet it's so counter-cultural

Popular in the Bible yet Unpopular Today

- Koinonia is mentioned 20 times in the New Testament yet it's not mentioned in its fullness in Church today.
- We've replaced it with too many other things
 - programs & auxiliaries - we have too many programs that try to address a need, without actual relationships that eliminate the need completely.
 - ◆ it's like we'd rather meet to talk about the problem than ending the problem in our communities
 - entertainment - we'd rather sing about the victory instead of experiencing it and walking it out
 - commercialized Church - we'd rather charge you extra to receive something than give you what you so desperately need
 - ◆ VIP meaning special access and conversations with the exceptionally gifted believers so that you can glean years of knowledge in 15mins for an additional cost.
 - schedules - we've believed the lie that everything else on the itinerary was more important than Koinonia
 - ◆ the sunday setlist
 - ◆ the announcements
 - ◆ the food ministry
 - ◆ the music ministry
 - ◆ the preaching
 - ◆ the parking lot ministry
 - ◆ the doings and happenings of commercialized church today
- The early Church began as a Church of testimonies where needs were met, problems were solved, brokenness was healed, lack was ended, deliverance was always available and love was in abundance.
- [Acts 2:42](#), "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Christian fellowship is a key aspect of the Christian life. Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith, and encouragement. That is the essence of koinonia.
- [Philippians 2:1-2](#) declares, "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."
- [1John 1:6-7](#) says, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

The Loving Disruption of Koinonia

- Koinonia lovingly disrupts the social order
 - there are no big "I's" and little "me's"

- there are no VIPs
- there are no green rooms
- there are no head tables
- there are no have's and have nots
- there's less plumbing to determine who get's water and who doesn't or how much to charge some folks versus other folks
 - ◆ there's free access to living water as it pours from God through us for each other.
- Thinks about everything you know about your Heavenly Father and His Unconditional Love and match it with Koinonia, and you'll find that it matches perfectly with His Heart.

Prioritizing One Another

- the culture of our time focuses on our own personal needs
- "me and my family"
- "our needs come first"
- "family first"
- these are post modern terms that the early Church didn't use
 - and we don't see them appear anywhere in Scripture
 - "as for me and my house" was not a set of non-negotiable demands and priorities for our own needs. The completion of the sentence was "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
 - we will actively participate in the work of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to His people.
 - Koinonia is priority
- If our fellowship experience prioritizes
 - what I have to do
 - what I have to present
 - what I have to prepare
 - it's not Koinonia (it isn't what God is asking for)
- What I do for others is not about me getting an A doing it. It's so that the Body is edified by the Lord through me (or anybody else).
- What I present to others is not for my acknowledgement or an award. It's so that the Body is edified by the Lord through me (or anybody else).
- What I have to prepare is not my punishment nor my praise or my prowess. It's so that God's people can be edified by the Lord through me (or anybody else).

Romans 12:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Romans 12:14-18 (NKJV)

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as

much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Galatians 5:13-15 (NKJV)

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

The Solution for What Ails You

- we don't need another program
- we don't need another system
- we don't need another gospel
- we don't need another idea
- we need to prioritize KOINONIA

The answer to our personal woes is waiting in the inviting spaces that Koinonia creates: Fellowship with the Lord and with one another.

- Loneliness - eliminated
- Private failure - addressed and eliminated
- Living a double life - revealed and eliminated
- Feeling overwhelmed - healed and eliminated
- Lack - met and eliminated
- Struggling marriages - healed and eliminated
- Wayward children - loved, corrected and re-aligned
- Confused Identity - revealed, and confusion eliminated

How do we do it?

- PUT Koinonia on the weekly schedule!
- Prioritize doing the things:
 - spending quality time speaking, demonstrating, giving, receiving the things that heal, build, provide, encourage, challenge, reveal, one-another-ing
- Place "one-another-ing" above "ourselves"