

FELLOWSHIP
New Testament Exegesis

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Introduction: Koinonia

The following is an overview of two key words in the New Testament that form the basis for our “koinonia” which means intimate or close fellowship and communion is with God, and not necessarily with each other. God is the focus and reason we come together at all. In other words our communion with God is the only reason we come together as a church; to have intimate fellowship with God *together*. The Scriptures command that our fellowship be *in* the Lord, and *with* the Lord in the Spirit. For some, koinonia has become a spiritual euphemism for *party*, “*fun and games*” church social events. While it is not sin to do so, nowhere does the bible indicate that our purpose in getting together with other believers is for anything other than to glorify and worship God.

Our koinonia with Jesus is in His crucifixion, our partnering with Christ our Passover. As Jesus sacrificed Himself in shedding His own blood and in the destruction of His body of flesh so are we called as partners of Messiah in sacrificing our flesh and blood as Christ did; keeping our earthly relationships pure because our intimacy is with God and Light, not sin and darkness; sharing in the sufferings and pain of fellow partakers of Christ by giving up what is our blessing (money, food, time) and visa versa; intimacy with the gospel, faith, secrets God reveals to us and with each member of the Triune God.

2842 κοινωνία koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah)

from [2844](#); TDNT-3:797,447; n f; *fellowship*
partnership, fellowship i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:

NAS-contribution (2), fellowship (12), participation (2), sharing (3).

AV-fellowship 12, communion 4, communication 1, distribution 1, contribution 1, to communicate 1; 20

- 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

Acts 2:42

¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and [fellowship <2842 koinonia>](#), and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Romans 15:26

For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain [contribution <2842 koinonia>](#) for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

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1 Corinthians 1:9

God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto **the fellowship <2842 koinonia>** of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion <2842 koinonia>** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion <2842 koinonia>** of the body of Christ?

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what **fellowship <3353 metochos>** hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what **communion <2842 koinonia>** hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 8:4

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** of the ministering to the saints.

2 Corinthians 9:13

Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal **distribution <2842 koinonia>** unto them, and unto all *men*;

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion <2842 koinonia>** of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Galatians 2:9

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of **fellowship <2842 koinonia>**; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Ephesians 3:9

And to make all *men* see what *is* the **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:5

For your **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** in the gospel from the first day until now;

Philippians 2:1

¶ If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

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Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philemon 1:6

That the **communication <2842 koinonia>** of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 13:16

But to do good and to **communicate <2842 koinonia>** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

1 John 1:3

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** with us: and truly our **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6

If we say that we have **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship <2842 koinonia>** one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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Introduction: Metochos

The term metochos is referring to the “bond” that is formed between people who share a common purpose. It is used often to represent those involved in a business pursuit as members of a company or business interest as employees or shipmates for example.

In the book of Hebrews, the term is used to demonstrate the preeminence of Messiah Jesus above those of His *fellows*, namely Israel and the church; the born again believer who share in and partner with God (through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit) together with Messiah and High Priest Jesus; companions and partners in suffering and chastisement with Jesus. We are partners in enduring our suffering as Christ endured His.

3353 μετοχος metochos (met'-okh-os)

from 3348; TDNT-2:830,286; adj ; *sharing in*:—
NAS-companions (1), partakers (4), partners (1).
AV-partaker 4, partner 1, fellow 1; 6
1) sharing in, partaking
2) a partner (in a work, office, dignity)

Luke 5:7

And they beckoned unto their **partners <3353 metochos>**, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Hebrews 1:9

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy **fellows <3353 metochos>**.

Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, **partakers <3353 metochos>** of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Hebrews 3:14

For we are made **partakers <3353 metochos>** of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Hebrews 6:4

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers <3353 metochos>** of the Holy Ghost,

Hebrews 12:8

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But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are **partakers <3353 metochos>**, then are ye bastards, and not sons.