

Koinonia: Caring for One Another

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 2:42. (2 Peter 1:12)

B. The early Christians devoted themselves to “koinonia” or “the fellowship.”

C. The New English Bible translates “koinonia” as “to share in the common life.” (Romans 12:5)

D. The New Testament places a lot of emphasis on believers mutually and horizontally caring for one another.

1. Caring for believers falls on each believer, not on the pastor or ministry leader. It is important that believers mutually care for one another.

II. There are four ways that we can mutually care for another listed in this passage. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

A. “Two are better than one.” God did not intend that we be lone ranger Christians. We are made to carry each other’s burdens. (Galatians 6:2)

1. We should be sharing with and mutually teaching one another from the Scriptures. This mutual sharing is born from individual fellowship with God.

2. We need to mutually encourage one another. This means that we need to fortify each other with the spiritual strength to persevere in adversity.

a) Encouragement does not mean to commiserate, but to give each other confidence in the promises of God. (Hebrews 10:32-36)

b) This is the second greatest need of Christians in the church today. (Psalm 142:4)

3. We get tired in the Christian life and we need to stimulate each other to keep going. This is the job of every believer, not just the pastor or ministry leader. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

4. We need to defend each other against the world, the flesh, and the devil. This “mutual defense pact” requires mutual vulnerability and accountability. (James 5:16)

B. None of these areas involve a crisis situation. We need to care before a crisis occurs.

Application questions:

1. Before you heard this message, what was your idea of what “Christian fellowship” meant? Did this message reinforce or challenge that idea?

2. Why do you think that we are tempted to become “lone ranger Christians” or allow other people to be?

3. Which of the four areas of caring for one another are you practicing regularly? Are there any of them that you are not? What are some practical ways that you can put these principles into practice in your life?
