

Koinonia: Caring for One Another

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 2:42.

B. The early Christians devoted themselves to “koinonia” or “the fellowship.” This has also been translated “to share the common life.”

1. We have been joined to Jesus Christ in an organic, living relationships and because of that, we belong to one another. We have a common life in Christ with every member of the body of Christ worldwide. (1 John 1:3)

2. We have an experiential relationship with some believers who we have actually met face to face. These relationships are the focus of this message.

C. We mutually belong to each other as believers. (Romans 12:5)

II. There are a series of applications of “koinonia” discussed in this passage. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

A. We should be sharing with, mutually teaching one another, and learning from each other from the Scriptures. This mutual sharing is born from individual fellowship with God.

B. We need to mutually and horizontally encourage on another. This means that we need to fortify each other with the spiritual strength to persevere in adversity.

1. Discouragement is often very isolating. (Psalm 142:4, 13:1, 10:1)

2. Encouragement means that we communicate that we care for the person and that God cares for that person. (Isaiah 49:14-15)

3. Encouragement does not mean to commiserate, but to give each other confidence in the promises of God. (Hebrews 10:35-36)

C. We get lethargic in the Christian life and we need to stimulate each other to keep going. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

D. We need to defend each other against the world, the flesh, and the devil. This “mutual defense pact” requires mutual vulnerability.

III. None of these areas involve a crisis situation. We need to care before a crisis occurs and we may actually avoid the crisis.

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?
