

THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:40-47

I. THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

P. T. O'BRIEN

“ . . . Believers sharing together in
something, . . .”

(Dictionary of Paul and His Letters)

RONALD J. SIDER

“ . . . [Fellowship is] . . . an almost unconditional sharing of . . . lives with the other members of Christ's body.”

(Draper's Book of Quotations)

BRADLEY CHANCE

“The bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians together and to Christ.”

(Holman Bible Dictionary)

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLE FACTS

[Fellowship involves] “. . . Saints with one another, in **duties**; in **ordinances**; in **grace, love, joy**, etc.; . . . in **sufferings**; and in **glory**.”

(Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17,18; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:46; Malachi 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:4; Romans 15:1,2; Galatians 6:1,2; Romans 12:15; Revelation 7:9)

The **primary Greek Word** that is translated
as *fellowship* in the New Testament is

KOINONIA.

The noun **KOINONIA** occurs **20 times** in the New Testament and is translated **six** different ways.

- fellowship (12 times)
- communion (4 times)
- communication (1 time)
- distribution (1 time)
- contribution (1 time)
- to communicate (1 time)

The noun **KOINONOS** occurs 10 times and is translated four different ways.

- partaker (5 times)
- partner (3 times)
- fellowship (1 time)
- companion (1 time)

The verb **KOINONEO** occurs eight times and is translated three different ways.

- be partaker (5 times)
- communicate (2 times)
- distribute (1 time)

II. THE DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

#1. THERE IS A VERTICAL DIMENSION
TO BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

THE VERTICAL DIMENSION OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

1. We can have FELLOWSHIP with
GOD THE FATHER.

- 1 John 1:3
- John 15:15

THE VERTICAL DIMENSION OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

2. We can have FELLOWSHIP with
GOD THE SON.

- 1 Corinthians 1:9
- 1 John 1:3

THE VERTICAL DIMENSION OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

3. We can have FELLOWSHIP with
GOD THE SPIRIT.

- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Philippians 2:1
- Romans 8:16

THE REALITY OF THE “BAD NEWS”

Genesis 1-3

THE REALITY OF THE “GOOD NEWS”

Genesis 3:21

John 1:29

Romans 5:8

1 John 1:7

1 Peter 1:18-19

- SO -
QUESTION

John 3:3

2 Corinthians 13:5

II. THE DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

#2. THERE IS A HORIZONTAL DIMENSION
TO BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

1 John 1:7

1 John 3:14

2 Corinthians 5:17

III. THE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Element #1 – Biblical Fellowship has a Common
DEVOTION to Fellow Believers.

Acts 2:41-42; Psalm 133:1,3

John 17:20-21; 1 John 3:14

III. THE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Element #2– Biblical Fellowship has a Common Spirit of SACRIFICIAL Giving.

Hebrews 13:16

2 Corinthians 8:4-5

The many “one another” verses ...

John 7:38-39

III. THE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Element #3 – Biblical Fellowship

Incorporates a Common Dependence upon
God's GRACE.

Matthew 18:21-22

Ephesians 2:8

Ephesians 4:32

III. THE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Element #4 – Biblical Fellowship has a Common Sharing in the SUFFERING of Christ.

Philippians 3:10

2 Corinthians 1:7

Philippians 4:14

2 Timothy 1:8

Romans 8:17

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting** one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
