

KOINONIA - FELLOWSHIP

(ACTS 2:42 - HEBREWS 10:19-25)

CAN SEE THE VITAL PART FELLOWSHIP PLAYED IN THE DAILY LIFE EARLY CHURCH.

- WITHOUT IT BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH BE SERIOUSLY HINDERED

IT'S THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE CALLED TO MOST INTIMATELY PUT OUR FAITH INTO PRACTICE – **AMONGST THE CONGREGATION OF THE SAINTS. TO STIR UP LOVE AND GOOD WORKS.**

THE WORD TRANSLATED 'FELLOWSHIP' COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD KOINONIA - WHICH AT ROOT GIVES US AN UNDERSTANDING OF:

PARTICIPATION, COMMUNION, SHARING.

- I.E. A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP – **NOT JUST COMING TOGETHER.**
- A SHARING OF THE INTIMATE ASPECTS OF GOD'S PROMISES & DESIRES FOR US, NOT TO MENTION THE BURDENS, TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS OF THIS WORLD.
- WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE COMING TOGETHER FOR FOOTBALL MATCH OR POLITICAL PARTY – **THAT IS NOT KOINONIA**

GOD HAS MEANT FELLOWSHIP TO BE A NECESSITY FOR US:

MANKIND CREATED FOR COMMUNITY (**GENESIS 2:18**).

CORPORATE ASPECT IN BOTH OLD TESTAMENT LIFE (**GENESIS 12:2**) AND IN NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH (**EPHESIANS 1:18-23 AND 2:19-22**) – NOT TO MENTION FUTURE AGE TO COME (**REVELATION 21-22**).

THE TRIUNE GODHEAD

– INTERESTING TO NOTE WHAT THE BASIS OF ONENESS IS PATTERNED AFTER - THE TRIUNE GODHEAD ITSELF.

THREE DISTINCT PERSONS WHO EXIST IN CO-EQUAL ESSENCE AND CO-ETERNAL COMMUNION – GOD IS ECHAD (**JOHN 17:20-23**).

- TOTAL AGREEMENT, SHARING OF PURPOSE, FUNCTIONING, TOTAL LOVE.
- WHY GOD IS LOVE (1 JOHN 4:8) – EXPRESSION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GODHEAD.

WE MUST HOLD UNITY GODHEAD IN MIND WHEN RELATING WITH OTHERS.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:9 GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO HAS CALLED YOU INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

WE SEE THIS FURTHER STATED - **1 JOHN 1:3, 6-7.**

THIS ALLOWS US TO FUNCTION IN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. IF WE ARE OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, WE ARE NOT GOING TO FIND TRUE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

- WHY BELIEVERS ARE NOT GOING TO FIND TRUE FELLOWSHIP WITH UNBELIEVERS (**2 CORINTHIANS 6:14; EPHESIANS 5:11**).
- AND WHY SIN HAS TO BE DEALT WITH AND SET OUTSIDE THE CAMP.

THE PROCESS FOR FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNITY - SHARING THE WHOLE OF OUR LIVES WITH ONE ANOTHER ON A REGULAR BASIS (ACTS 2:42-47; 4:32-35).

CONTRIBUTION - SHARING MATERIALLY WITH ONE ANOTHER (ROMANS 15:26; 2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-4; 9:13; PHILIPPIANS 4:15).

COMMUNICATION - SHARING OUR FAITH WITH ONE ANOTHER (PHILEMON 1:6).

COMMUNION - SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER TOGETHER (1 CORINTHIANS 10:16).

THE PRODUCT OF FELLOWSHIP

- UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS (PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4).
- DESIRE TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE OF GENUINE CONCERN (PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5).

- AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS TO THE WORLD AROUND US (JOHN 13:34-35; 17:23).
- GLORY TO GOD (ROMANS 12:1)

A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF WHAT KOINONIA SHOULD LOOK LIKE CAN BE FOUND IN A STUDY OF THE PHRASE “ONE ANOTHER” IN THE BIBLE.

SCRIPTURE COMMANDS US TO BE:

- DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER (**ROMANS 12:10**).
- HONOUR ONE ANOTHER (**ROMANS 12:10**).
- BE OF THE SAME MIND AS ONE ANOTHER (**ROMANS 12:16**; **1 PETER 3:8**).
- ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER (**ROMANS 15:7**).
- SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE (**GALATIANS 5:13**).
- BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER (**EPHESIANS 4:32**).
- TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER (**COLOSSIANS 3:16**).
- ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER (**1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**; **HEBREWS 3:13**).
- SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS (**HEBREWS 10:24**).
- OFFER HOSPITALITY (**1 PETER 4:9**).
- AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER (**1 PETER 1:22**; **1 JOHN 3:11**; **3:23**; **4:7**; **4:11-12**).