

Fellowship – a sharing

coffee and donuts, a fishing boat  
or the gospel?

Sugkoinoneo; koinoneo;  
koinonia; koinonikos;  
koinonos; metecho; metoche

These 7 Greek words are used 77 times - 3 to refer to a partnership of Peter and John in a fishing boat, the rest of 1) of funding a preacher; 2) a contribution for the needy Saints; 3)

A relationship in the Lord between brethren or between brethren and the Lord.

## A fishing partnership – fellowship

Luk 5:7 So they signaled their partners (Gr *metochos*) in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ... 10 and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners (Gr *koinoonoi*) with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."

So any partnership or sharing but in religious matters,  
the Lord's Supper, but never of a meal or a get-  
together

There is no fellowship in the Scriptures between churches except as they mutually, but individually, send contributions for needy saints or for preaching the gospel.

The elders of one church did not oversee  
the work of another church.

Acts 20:28"Be on guard for yourselves  
and for all the flock, among which the  
Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to  
shepherd the church of God which He  
purchased with His own blood.

The command to the elders is not to shepherd multiple flocks, especially multiple flocks doing a good work, but the flock “among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers” Act 20.28 or “among you” 1Pet 5.2

Thus, the church in Rome did not direct all the churches in Achaia and Macedonia to send the funds to Rome and then they would distribute them as needed in a World Evangelism Program.

1 Peter 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

“among you” not the 5 or 10 churches nearby especially those who might be too small to have elders

Brethren gave directly to the need  
– each of them

– “in the proportion that any of  
the disciples had means”, Acts  
11:29 or

“put aside and save, as he may  
prosper”, 1 Cor 16:2

1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the  
light as He Himself is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one  
another, and the blood of Jesus  
His Son cleanses us from all sin.

First, our fellowship (sharing) must  
be with God.

We have a horizontal fellowship  
(sharing) with brethren if they too  
walk with God!

*but if we walk in the light as He Himself  
is in the light, we have fellowship with  
one another*

In helping needy saints. 2 Cor 8:4  
Praying us with much intreaty that we  
would receive the gift, and take upon  
us the fellowship [favor of  
participation, NASB] of the  
ministering to the saints. 5 And this  
they did, not as we hoped, but first  
gave their own selves to the Lord,  
and unto us by the will of God. (KJV)

Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. 27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

The church shares in spiritual things, and then shares in material things.

1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the  
light as He Himself is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one  
another, and the blood of Jesus  
His Son cleanses us from all sin.

We have a horizontal fellowship with brethren if they too walk with God in support of faithful preaching!

Phil 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

You may say, “It just makes more sense for one church to collect the funds to take care of all the needs of a missionary, rather than having him do it with no financial oversight,” but what you have done in saying that is you have departed from God’s wisdom and substituted your own.

The fellowship is between Christians  
– Why? Because individual  
Christians are those who are in  
fellowship with God – not churches!

Rev 3:4 'But you have a few people in  
Sardis who have not soiled their  
garments; and they will walk with Me in  
white ; for they are worthy. 5'He who  
overcomes shall thus be clothed in white  
garments; and I will not erase his name  
from the book of life, and I will confess  
his name before My Father, and before  
His angels.

Jesus had some folks in His day  
who decided they didn't want to  
share with Him – they left!

John 6:66 As a result of this  
many of His disciples withdrew,  
and were not walking with Him  
anymore.

First of all our fellowship is a vertical relationship - with God

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we have fellowship with God, then and only then, do we have fellowship with all those who are in fellowship with God.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

If we claim fellowship with sin  
(or sinners – those who do not  
walk with God), we have no  
fellowship with those who are in  
fellowship with God.

(If we are walking in sin, we do  
not share anything with God!)

We must first have fellowship  
with God (we must share our  
lives with Him)

— without that we  
are lost!

When we walk with God, we do not walk (give our approval of, have fellowship) with those who have left the path or those who have never known the path.

Rom 1:32 and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

There were those who were called Christians at Corinth but who were not following God.

*1 Cor 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one.*

2 Cor 6:14 Do not be bound together  
[unequally yoked – KJV, NKJV]  
with unbelievers; for what  
partnership have righteousness and  
lawlessness, or what fellowship has  
light with darkness? 15 Or what  
harmony has Christ with Belial , or  
what has a believer in common with  
an unbeliever?

Not of a wife as the same Greek  
word is used 1 Cor 7:12

But to the rest I say, not the Lord,  
that if any brother has a wife who  
is an unbeliever, and she consents  
to live with him, let him not send  
her away.

2 Cor 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

We cannot walk with those who have departed from the way of the Lord for in so doing, we have fellowship with sin.

Our response must be to encourage them to return for if they refuse fellowship with us, either we or they are not walking with God!

Josh 24:15

but as for me and my house, we  
will serve the LORD

If you are not serving the Lord  
faithfully, you are not in  
fellowship with God or with his  
people!