

Fellowship: Sharing With One Another

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

- A. The basic principles of fellowship are founded on the idea that we belong to each other. (Romans 12:5)
- B. The most frequent use of the grammatical forms of “koinonia” is in the context of sharing material wealth.
- C. The New Testament frequently encourages the “sharing” of material possessions. (Romans 12:13, 15:26-27; 2 Corinthians 8:4, 9:13; 1 Timothy 6:18; Hebrews 13:16)

II. Sharing materially is act of obedience.

- A. We are commanded to be generous- it is not optional part of fellowship. (1 Timothy 6:18; Romans 15:27; 2 Corinthians 9:13)
 - 1. Generosity should be born of compassion. (1 John 3:17-18; Romans 12:13)
 - 2. We must make other believers’ needs our voluntary responsibility because they belong to us. (Philippians 4:14)
- B. Obligation does not exclude the joy of generosity. (2 Corinthians 9:5, 6, 13)
- C. Sharing is a joyful experience. (2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 2-3)

III. Sharing is an experience that glorifies God. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)

- A. Because of generosity, God will be thanked.
- B. Sharing is both our act to meet others’ needs and God’s act to provide for other believers.

IV. Most of the uses of “koinonia” in regard to material sharing are within the context of meeting the needs of other believers.

- A. Pray and God will bring current needs in our body of believers to our attention.
- B. We also can be systematically giving to organizations that meet the needs of believers and nonbelievers. (2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 15:26-27)
- C. We are to give to missionaries and to our local church. (Galatians 6:6)
- D. We also need to be giving to the physical needs of believers we know. (Hebrews 13:16)

Application questions:

1. How has giving materially brought joy to you?

2. How does giving from the perspective that the other person belongs to you change your attitude toward giving?

3. How does giving to other believers glorify God?
