

# Living the Koinonia Lifestyle

*Philippians 1:3-5. I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,*

## Introduction:

- ▣ **What is ‘Koinonia’? = ‘Fellowship’**
- ▣ **‘Biblical fellowship’ is a uniquely Christian concept!**

*Jesus said: ‘I will build my church’ Matt. 16:18.*

- We are a part of His church

*Jesus will present to himself a ‘radiant bride’ Eph 5:27.*

- Jesus will complete His church

- ▣ **Three windows into the church to learn about:**

***“Living the ‘koinonia’ lifestyle”***

### **1. A local church in action**

***Acts 2:42-47.*** *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.*

*<sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

### ***Vital components of a vibrant fruitful local church:***

#### **□ a) Devoted: V:42**

- To the Apostles teaching
- To fellowship (Koinonia) – interaction with one-another!
- To communion
- To prayer

#### **□ b) Care and generosity: V:44-45**

- Visiting, giving, sharing, meals, caring, supporting, etc.
- Strong fellowship and connection – (together, together, together).

#### **□ c) In the temple and in homes: V:46**

- Corporate praise, worship, prayer and ministry
- A high level of credibility (favour of all the people)

#### **□ d) God at work: V:43, 47**

- Signs and wonders
- People continually becoming believers – the church grows!

## 2. When you come together

**1 Corinthians 14:26.** *What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

### **Paul instructs us about the church meetings:**

- **a) In chapter 12 he shows us the church as a body**
  - Many parts, many functions, inter-connected, interdependent
  - All are important and placed by God
  - This cannot happen if 'members live isolated from the corporate expression'!
- **b) '...when you come together...' 14:26.**
  - Not – if you are isolated from the 'corporate expression' of the local church!
  - Coming together for corporate worship is the normal expression & pattern!
- **c) Everyone has a contribution to each other**
  - Psalm, word, prophecy, song, tongue, interpretation, gift, etc.
- **d) All is done to strengthen each other – the church**
  - The church is people – called out ones – 'ecclesia'

- The church is strengthened in the context of ‘corporate worship’

### 3. With One Another

***Ephesians 4:1-3.*** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing **with one another** in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to **keep the unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.

#### **1. The local church involves corporate expression**

- This means being ‘with one another’ – ‘koinonia’

***Ephesians 4:11-16.*** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> **From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

## **2. God gave Ascension Gift Ministries for a specific purpose**

### **▣ a) Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors & teachers**

- To equip God's people for works of service. V:12.
- Until we reach unity in the faith. (Unity means being together) V:13.
- So that the body (a corporate organism) may be built up. V:12.
- Until we grow from children to adults believers. V:14-15.
- To become the 'mature body' of Christ. (Many membered body) V:15.

### **▣ b) To become a fruitful body (church or organism)**

- Joined and held together by every supporting ligament. V:16.
- Growing and building itself up. V: 16.
- Each part doing its work. V:16.

***“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”***  
***Ephesians 4:16***

*Verse 16 is a clear description of a strong, healthy and vibrant 'koinonia lifestyle!'*