

WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?

Fellowship as we think of it today, is getting together with others and it usually involves food and/or beverages of some sort. It can be for a purpose or just to sit around and talk. Perhaps some type of game or sport will develop during this time, but the main idea is to just be with other people.

[Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) has 10 definitions for Fellowship. Noun

1. *the condition or relation of being a fellow: the fellowship of humankind.*
2. *friendly relationship; companionship: the fellowship of father and son.*
3. *community of interest, feeling, etc.*
4. *communion, as between members of the same church.*
5. [*friendliness.*](#)
6. *an association of persons having similar tastes, interests, etc.*
7. *company, guild, or corporation.*
8. *Education.*
 - a. *the body of [fellows](#) in a college or university.*
 - b. *the position or emoluments of a fellow of a college or university, or the sum of money he or she receives.*
 - c. *a foundation for the maintenance of a fellow in a college or university.*

*verb (used with object), **fellowshipped** or **fellowshipped**, **fellowshipping** or **fellowshipping**.*

9. *to admit to fellowship, especially religious fellowship.*

*verb (used without object), **fellowshipped** or **fellowshipped**, **fellowshipping** or **fellowshipping**.*

10. *to join in fellowship, especially religious fellowship.*

According to Dictionary.com **RELIGIOUS** means

1. *of, relating to, or concerned with religion : a religious holiday.*
2. *imbued with or exhibiting religion; pious; devout; godly: a religious man.*

3. *scrupulously faithful; conscientious: religious care.*

4. *pertaining to or connected with a monastic or religious order.*

5. appropriate to religion or to sacred rites or observances.

Noun, plural **religious**.

6. a member of a religious order, congregation, etc.; a monk, friar, or nun.

7. the religious, devout or religious persons.

In the Greek a common word for fellowship is *koinonia*

koinōnia

koy-nohn-ee'-ah

From [G2844](#); *partnership*, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction*: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

Total KJV occurrences: 20

koinōnia

Thayer Definition:

1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse

1a) the share which one has in anything, participation

1b) intercourse, fellowship, intimacy

1b1) the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office)

1c) a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

Partnership is fellowship

1. EXAMPLES OF FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Romans 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a **contribution** for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

1Co 1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship of His Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Cor 6:14 **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what has righteousness with lawlessness?** And what **communion** has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 9:13 Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your **contribution** to them and to all,

Hebrews 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and **sharing**; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

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

1 John 1:7 (note) 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.

Honest Fellowship with like-minded people that love the Lord is necessary for unity.

FELLOWSHIP & LIKE-MINDEDNESS (ONE ACCORD)

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any affection and mercy, Php 2:1

fulfill my joy by **being like-minded**, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. Php 2:2

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Php 2:3

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Php 2:4

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Php 2:5

2. ONE ACCORD

Act 1:14 These all continued with **one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place.

Act 2:46-47 So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Act 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with **one accord** in Solomon's Porch.

Acts 8: 6-8 And the multitudes with **one accord** heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

In this church we have partnership or membership, so that those that become members are agreeing with our Biblical position. We are like-minded in the scriptures; we are partners together in this ministry. **We are not supposed to be silent partners where we just sit and observe, we are supposed to active participants in the ministry.**

We believe God that this body is going to reach more people for Christ, but it takes willing partners or people to help bring that forth. Serving in any capacity is a big part of that. **Faith without works is dead.** *James 2:20, 26*

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? *James 2:20*

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. *James 2:26*

3. SEVEN CHOSEN TO SERVE

Act 6:1 Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Act 6:2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Act 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may **appoint** over this business;

Act 6:4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

Act 6:6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Act 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

These men were not invited to dinner or coffee; they weren't promised anything special, they weren't manipulated either. They were CHOSEN or **appointed** based on their character qualities not their skills. They had a good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. God's qualifications and man's are not always the same. Since the church grew, then it makes sense that those men, had to select others to help them. We can see a ministry developing right there. The apostles were the examples, they served, they were not passing that responsibility on to others, who in turn would add people so more could be served.

Unless a church is willing to have members that serve, they will not be able

to accomplish what the Lord wants, nor will they be increase in people. A church can only handle the number of people that those serving can care for. The more that serve, the more the Lord can bring in to be cared for, who in turn should serve so more can be added. It is about growing the Kingdom of God, this is done by reaching people and giving them a place they can become equipped in the Word and in character.

By serving, we see it is also an act of giving.

4. IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE. - ACTS 20:35

Act 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**' "

Churches have vacant areas and it is difficult to birth a new ministry area when the necessary one are not being filled. We cannot do all that the Lord wants with half-full ministry areas, e.g.Children's Ministry; Children's Ministry Check-in, this is not a luxury, it is a matter of safety for the children. Ushers are also necessary to a ministry. It is difficult to add another ministry when other necessary roles are vacant.

**WHATEVER YOU HAND FINDS TO DO, DO IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART.
Eccl 9:10**

Col 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

Col 3:24 *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

When we are unwilling to serve in the body of Christ, we are hurting the body. We need to start to do something for the sake of the brothers and sisters in that body and beyond. When each person takes a turn in a ministry area, then the others that also serve in that area are able to rest knowing that you are taking care of that area. When there are not enough willing people to help, then it takes a toll on those serving and they become tired in serving.

The Corinthian church really needed someone to come and minister to them, and Apollos wasn't willing. The Corinthian church could have been very blessed by his visit. They needed his wisdom, encouragement, teaching. Instead the only other person Paul could send to them was a young man

with little experience with the issues facing the Corinthians, and had stomach issues. Timothy was willing to go even though he didn't have the experience of Apollos. Timothy trusted the Holy Spirit and would go if he was asked to by Paul.

APOLLOS WAS UNWILLING TO DO WHAT WAS NEEDED. IT WASN'T CONVENIENT.

1Co 16:12 *Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite **unwilling** to come at this time; however, he will come **when he has a convenient time**.*

Don't let inconvenience be the reason you are unwilling to serve. The Lord is looking for those with a willing heart, to do His work. When we prove ourselves to be faithful, dependable, willing we can move us into other areas. When a person is late, or isn't reliable, or does a poor job when they are there, they will not be promoted by either God, or man.

5. WILLINGNESS

Pray and ask the Lord to make you willing. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

(Php 2:12-16)

2Co 8:3-4 For I bear witness that according **to their ability**, yes, **and beyond their ability**, **they were freely willing**, imploring us with much urgency that we would **receive the gift (financial) and the fellowship of the ministering (serving) to the saints**

There is no perfect church, no perfect people. Don't look for a church that please you, look for a church that the Lord puts you in. Once you are there, do something.

WILLINGNESS SCRIPTURES

Mat 8:2 & Mar 1:40 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are **willing**, You can make me clean."

Mat 8:3 Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am **willing**; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Mar 1:41 Then Jesus, *moved with compassion*, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am **willing**; be cleansed."

Mat 26:41 & Mar 14:38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is willing*, but the flesh *is weak*."

Joh 5:40 But you are not **willing** to come to Me that you may have life.

2Co 8:3 For I bear witness that according to *their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing*,

2Co 8:12 For if there is first a **willing** mind, *it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have*.

1Ti 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, **willing** to share,

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **willing** to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not **willing** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance

6. LOVE YOUR BROTHER

Philp 2:1 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any affection and mercy,

Philp 2:2 fulfill my joy by **being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind**.

Philp 2:3 *Let nothing be done* **through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself**.

Philp 2:4 **Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others**.

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who **loves** God *must* love his **brother** also.

Serving in the body of Christ is also an expression of that love. When someone is constantly covering for others, they get tired out. When more people step in to help, there is less work for everyone and the body can stay strong. More work can be done and more people can be added. The Lord won't give us more than we can handle. Make room for growth by doing the work of the ministry.

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1Cor 12:26)

BODY AND MEMBERS

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (1Cor 12:12)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1Cor 12:13)

For in fact the body is not one member but many. (1Cor 12:14)

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? (1Cor 12:15)

And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? (1Cor 12:16)

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? (1Cro 12:17)

But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. (1Cor 12:18)

And if they were all one member, where would the body be? (1Cor 12:19)

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. (1Cor 12:20)

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (1Cor 12:21)

No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. (1Cor 12:22)

And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, (1Cor 12:23)

7. SOME REASONS PEOPLE DON'T GET INVOLVED:

- a) **We Don't Think We Are Capable:** Often times we look at our own inadequacies and think that we don't have anything to offer. That is contrary to the Word of God! 1 Cor 12:18 "*But now God has set the members, **each one of them**, in the body just as He pleased.*" He didn't say some of them, or a few of them, He said EACH ONE OF THEM. God has something for EVERYONE to do. If you don't think you are worthy or capable, His Word says,

1) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philp 4:13*

2) *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Pro 3:5-8*

3) *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2Co 12:9-10*

8. We Don't Take the Time to See What He Wants Us To Do:

Sometimes we say a little prayer like, "Lord show me what you want me to do," and we leave it like that. We did our part we asked, now it is on Him. We don't take time to listen. Perhaps an idea comes to us and we dismiss it as not being from the Lord as it isn't something that we want to do, or it doesn't seem very important. Maybe it sounds too big, or inconvenient, so we just chalk it up to "that can't be the Lord, must just be me." Then we just go about our business waiting for Him to show you what He wants you to do. This can become a pattern and you never end up doing what He truly wants. What we need to do at this point, is keep asking, "Lord is this truly what you want me to do?" Continue to pray take a week or more, see if it starts to take root. Determine if you really have a peace about it. Sometimes an idea

starts off like it really is the Lord, and you really think it is the Lord. Test the water, do a little toward that thing. Do you still have peace? Do you really have peace or is there a bit of nagging doubt? Not the kind that comes with insecurity in your ability, but the kind that comes from maybe this really isn't the Lord. Keep praying until you are pretty confident that you are moving in the direction He wants you to. As you move, keep asking Him to stop this from proceeding if it isn't His will, and if it is, thank Him for blessing it. Just because you may face an obstacle, doesn't mean it isn't His will. There is an adversary, the devil, who wants to stop God's will being done. Sometimes we face an obstacle to slow us down as we are moving too fast, or because someone else is moving too slow. If you are moving forward and you are continually asking Him for guidance and you still make a mistake, He will be able to correct it as long as you stay humble, and have really been trying to be led by Him. We all miss it from time to time, but He can get us out of our mess, usually without us getting too dirty, as long as we have been attempting to follow Him.

- 1) We are afraid we won't like the answer.** Many times people don't want to ask God what He wants them to do as they are afraid it may be inconvenient, or something they don't want to do. It is easier to shrug off the nudging they get sometimes. The Holy Spirit will nudge God's people to do something, yet sometimes we still resist. We don't want to do it as it will be we have to give something up, or it will be an inconvenience. What if the Lord was nudging to be involved in a ministry that required practice one night per week, like the Worship team? Would you be willing to do what He asked? What about a ministry that required set up on Sunday morning and you would need to be here by 9:15 once per month? Would that be too much? What if He wanted you to help out at a homeless shelter where you had the opportunity to witness to the clients? Often times when people won't ask it's because they aren't willing to do what the Lord MAY want them to do. They don't want to take the chance that He will ask them to do something they dislike.

Pray and ask the Lord to make you willing.

Philp 2:12-16 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and

perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Press in and do the work of the ministry

Who is supposed to do the work of the Ministry? The Pastor or just leaders?

And **He Himself** gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **Why** for the equipping of **Who** for the saints **What For** -**to do the work of ministry**, **The Result** - **for the edifying of the body of Christ**, Eph 4:11-12