

Word Studies in Philemon

“Koinonia” – “And to the church in your house:”

Philemon 1:4-7

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. 7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

We find numerous echoes of the brotherhood verses 4–7 in the rest of the letter:

Eight Endearing Words in Greek

1. 'love' – agape <26> - in verses 5, 9; (tender loving kindness)
2. 'fellowship' – koinōnia <2842> - in verses 6, 17; (mutual sharing, communion)
3. 'bowels' – splangchna <4698> - literally 'entrails' in verses 7, 12 and 20 (heart)
4. 'brother' – adelphos <80> - in verses 7, 20 (comrade, more than friend, family)
5. 'beloved' – agapetos <27> - in 1, 2, 16 – (precious, cherished)
6. 'saints' – hagios <40> - in 1, 7, (holy ones, chosen ones, set apart ones)
7. 'receive' – proslambano <4355> - in verses 12, 17 (latch onto, grab and hold onto)
8. 'refresh' – agathos <373> - in verses 7, 20 (to rest, take a break, time out)
9. 'encouragement' – paraklesis <3874> - exhortation, admonition, comfort, solace

One Another

There are over 42 “One Another” commands in the New Testament. Study all the “one another” <240> *allelon* passages in Scripture to learn what we are supposed to be doing “together” with each other in our homes.

Fellow-ship (together in the same boat)

Also, study the words that begin with “fellow” in this passage. Each of them, fellow-worker, fellow-soldier, fellow-prisoner, all begin with the Greek suffix, “*sun*” which means “with, beside, or together.”

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow-laborer. <4904>

Philemon 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow-soldier. <4961> and to the church in your house:

Philemon 1:23 There salute you Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner <4869> in Christ Jesus;

Philemon 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow-laborers. <4904>

The Meaning of Fellowship – *Koinonia*

Oikos – Fellowship – in your house – houses of prayer – houses of worship & ministry. Most believers in today's church are content to go to church worship on a Sunday morning and think they are doing God a service. Yet, the early church of Acts meet daily in homes (Oikos) for Fellowship (sharing food, gifts, encouragement). This is where the church is the church.

Avoiding exposure – Today's believer hides behind a mask – pretend you are holy – perfect, righteous, good, without faults, without weaknesses, without struggles, without burdens.

1. Sing Worship Songs Together – Ephesians 5:19-20, Colossians 3:16-17
2. Study Word Together – Acts 2:42 – regularly
3. Fellowship Together – Hebrews 10:24-25 – passionately, use gifts, encourage
4. Pray Together – Acts 2:42 – Frequently - James 5:13-16 for healing
5. Break Bread Together – Acts 2:42 – as often as you choose (1 Cor. 11:23-33)

You can only minister to “one another” by being together

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falls; for *he has* no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

I John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: Walk in the light as he is in the light and we have FELLOWSHIP one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

James 5:16 Confess your faults/weaknesses/temptations/struggles/sins/failures one to another...

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (which is love one another fervently, as yourself)

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.

Your task as a true believer is to find a fellowship. Create a fellowship. Become a house of prayer and worship. Let your house be a house of ministry, not a castle with draw bridges and a mote.

Challenge

1. **Once a week** – meet with a prayer partner
2. **Once a month** – gather together in a home for fellowship
3. **Once a quarter** – invite others into your home for fellowship

WHAT WE ARE TO DO WITH ONE ANOTHER

THESE ARE COMMANDS... NOT SUGGESTIONS!

1. ACCEPT ... (ROMANS 15:5-7)
2. BE KIND ... (EPH. 4:32)
3. LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE ... (1 JOHN 3:16)
4. PUT UP WITH ... (EPH. 4:2)
5. HONOR ... (ROMANS 12:10)
6. LOVE ... (JOHN 13:34; 15:12; 17) FERVENTLY (1 PET 1:22)
7. SERVE ... (GAL. 5:13)
8. SUBMIT TO ... (EPH. 5:21)
9. WASH FEET ... (JOHN 13:14)
10. BEAR BURDENS ... (GAL. 6:2)

1. GREET ... (ROMANS 16:16)
2. ADMONISH ... (ROMANS 15:14)
3. CONFESS FAULTS ... (JAMES 5:16)
4. COMFORT ... (1 THESS 4:18)
5. EDIFY ... ONE ANOTHER (1 THESS. 4:18)
6. EXHORT ... (HEB. 3:13)
7. FORGIVE ... (EPH. 4:32)
8. SING TO ... (EPH. 5:19)
9. PRAY FOR ... (JAMES 5:16)
10. SPUR ON ... (HEB. 10:24)

1. JUDGE NOT ... (ROMANS 14:13)
2. ENVY NOT ... (GAL. 5:15)
3. PROVOKE NOT ... (GAL. 5:15)
4. BITE NOT ... (GAL. 5:15)
5. DEVOUR NOT ... (GAL. 5:15)
6. LIE NOT ... (COLOSSIANS 3:9)
7. DEFRAUD NOT... (1 THESSALONIANS 4:6)
8. SHOW NO PARTIALITY ... (1 TIM. 5:21)
9. FORSAKE NOT GATHERING ... (HEB. 10:25)
10. PUT NO STUMBLINGBLOCK ... (ROM. 14:13)

These one another ministries were never intended to be done Sunday morning in church, but together in each other's homes. (Acts 2:46 / Acts 20:20)

It is the rejection of togetherness in the body of Christ that destroys the true church's testimony. (Hebrews 10:25)

Our Fellowship Is With Him and One Another

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. – 1 John 1:3-4

We are all in the same boat together. Every child of God is part of the family. No one is better than someone else. We are all sinners being saved by grace. Paul calls all believers “saints.” That doesn’t mean we have arrived or are already completely holy. But it means we are in God’s family and God is still working on each of us.

Before you throw stones, before you condemn, before you criticize, before you speak evil of him/her, before you look down on him/her, and before you dare touch God’s chosen, remember every believer is and has been, and always will be...

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born again into God’s family• A Beloved Brother• A New Creation• A Child of the King• A Precious Jewel• A Citizen of heaven• A Friend of God• An Heir of God• A Joint Heir with Christ• A Saint before the throne• A Brand plucked out of the fire• God’s Elect• God’s Workmanship• God’s Ambassador• Accepted in the Beloved• Salt of the earth• Light of the world• The Temple of God• Clay in the Potter’s hand• Sealed by the Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure forever in Christ• Kept by the power of God• Translated into the Son’s kingdom• Name written in heaven• Washed in the blood• Faultless before the throne• Blameless• Sanctified and Set apart• Cleansed• Washed• Renewed• Justified• Set free• Hidden with Christ in God• Passed from death to life• Empowered by the Holy Spirit• Protected by the Father• Provided for by the Son• Covered by the blood• Forgive all his trespasses
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Romans 8:33-39

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.