

# 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>*

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**Fellowship (koinonia) <2842>**  
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*1:6 That the communication of your faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

*1:17 If you count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.*

**2842 koinonia from 2844; n f;**

AV—fellowship 12, communion 4, communication 1, distribution 1, contribution 1, to communicate 1; 20

- 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 anapauo of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office)
  - 1c) a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

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**Brother (adelphos) <80>**  
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*Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow-laborer,*

*Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by you, brother.*

*Philemon 1:16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto you, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?*

*Philemon 1:20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of you in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.*

**80 adelphos from 1 (as a connective particle) and delphus (the womb); n m;**

AV—brethren 226, brother 113, brother's 6, brother's way 1; 346

- 1) a brother, whether born of the same two parents or only of the same father or mother
- 2) having the same national ancestor, belonging to the same people, or countryman
- 3) any fellow or man
- 4) a fellow believer, united to another by the bond of affection
- 5) an associate in employment or office
- 6) brethren in Christ
  - 6a) his brothers by blood
  - 6b) all men
  - 6c) apostles
  - 6d) Christians, as those who are exalted to the same heavenly place

**Philadelphia** – means city of Brotherly Love

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**Bowels/ Heart (splanchnon) <4698>**  
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*Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels <4698> of the saints are refreshed by you, brother.*

*Philemon 1:12 Whom I have sent again: you therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels <4698>:*

*Philemon 1:20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels <4698> in the Lord.*

**4698 σπλάγχνον splanchnon**

probably strengthened from splen (the "spleen"); n n;

AV—bowels 9, inward affection 1, tender mercy + 1656 1; 11

1) bowels, intestines, (the heart, lungs, liver, etc.)

1a) bowels

1b) the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, esp. kindness, benevolence, compassion; hence our heart (tender mercies, affections, etc.)

1c) a heart in which mercy resides

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**Love <26> (agape)**  
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*Philemon 1:5 NKJV — hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,*

*Philemon 1:7 NKJV — For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.*

**26 agape from 25; n f;**

AV—love 86, charity 27, dear 1, charitably+ 2596 1, feast of charity 1; 116

1) {Singular} brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence {#Joh 15:13 Ro 13:10 1Jo 4:18}

1a) Of the love of men to men; esp. Christians towards Christians which is enjoined and prompted by their religion, whether the love be viewed as in the soul or expressed {#Mt 14:12 1Co 13:1–4,8 14:1 2Co 2:4 Ga 5:6 Phm 5,7 1Ti 1:5 Heb 6:10 10:24 1Jo 4:7 Re 2:4,19} &c

2) {plural} love feasts expressing and fostering mutual love which used to be held by Christians before the celebration of the Lord's supper, and at which the poorer Christians mingled with the wealthier and partook in common with the rest of the food provided at the expense of the wealthy. {#Jude 12 2Pe 2:13 Ac 2:42,46 1Co 11:17–34}

Syn.: φιλία 5373 ἀγάπη, signifying properly (v. s. ἀγαπᾶω 25) love which chooses its object, is taken from the LXX, where its connotation is more general, into the NT, and there used exclusively to express that spiritual bond of love between God and man and between man and man, in Christ which is characteristic of Christianity. **It is thus distinct from φιλία, friendship (#Jas 4:4 only), στοργή, natural affection (in the NT only in its compounds, v. s. ἀστοργός 794) and eros sexual love,** which is not used in the NT, in its place being taken by ἐπιθυμία 1939 epithymia (lusts, desires)

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**Dearly "beloved" <27> agapetos**  
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*Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,*

*Philemon 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:*

*Philemon 1:16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?*

**27 agapetos from 25; adj;**

AV—beloved 47, dearly beloved 9, well beloved 3, dear 3; 62

1) beloved, esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love

1a) by God,

1a1) of Christ {#Mt 3:17 17:5 Mr 1:11 9:7 Lu 3:22 9:35}

1a2) of men {#Ro 1:7}

1b) by Christians

1b1) of one another {#1Co 4:14 10:14} as opposed εχρηπος 2190, {#Ro 11:28}

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**Refresh, <373> anapauo**  
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*Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed <373> by you, brother.*

*Philemon 1:20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of you in the Lord: refresh <373> my bowels in the Lord.*

373 anapauo from 303 and 3973; v;

AV—rest 4, refresh 4, take rest 2, give rest 1, take ease 1; 12

1) to cause or permit one to cease from any movement or labor in order to recover and collect his strength

2) to give rest, refresh, to give one's self rest, take rest

3) to keep quiet, of calm and patient expectation

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**Good thing, <18> agathos (benefit)**  
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*Philemon 1:6 That the communication of you faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing <18> which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

*Philemon 1:14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that your benefit <18> should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.*

**18 agathos a primary word; adj;**

AV—good 77, good thing 14, that which is good + 3588 8, the thing which is good + 3588 1, well 1, benefit 1; 102

1) of good constitution or nature {#Lu 8:8,15 Mt 7:18 Jas 3:17}

- 2) useful, salutary, a gift which is truly a gift {#Jas 1:17 Mt 7:11 Ro 7:12,13 Lu 10:42 Php 1:6 Ro 8:28}
- 3) good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy {#1Pe 3:10,13 Ps 34:13 2Th 2:16 Tit 2:13}
- 3a) a good conscience {#Ac 23:1 1Ti 1:5,19 1Pe 3:16,21}
- 4) excellent, distinguished {#Joh 1:46}

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**Receive <4355> pros-lambano**  
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*Philemon 1:12 Whom I have sent again: you therefore receive <4355> him, that is, mine own bowels:*

*Philemon 1:17 If you count me therefore a partner, receive <4355> him as myself.*

4355 proslambano, from 4314 and 2983; v;

2983 lambano *lam-ban'-o*

4314 προς *pros pros*

AV—receive 7, take 5, take unto 2; 14

**1) to take to, take in addition, to take to one's self**

1a) to take as one's companion

1b) to take by the hand in order to lead aside

1c) to take or receive into one's home, with the collateral idea of kindness

1d) to receive, i.e. grant one access to one's heart

1d1) to take into friendship and intercourse

1e) to take to one's self, to take: i.e. food

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**3624 oikos, house or household**  
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*Philemon 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in your house <3624>:*

**3624 oikos uncertain affinity; n m;**

AV—house 104, household 3, home + 1519 2, at home + 1722 2, misc 3; 114

1) a house

1a) an inhabited house, home

1b) any building whatever

1b1) of a palace

1b2) the house of God, the tabernacle

1c) any dwelling place

2) the inmates of a house, all the persons forming one family, a household

2a) the family of God, of the Christian Church, of the church of the Old and New  
 For Synonyms see entry 5867 & 5944

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**Fellow-laborer – sunergos – sun=together, ergos- labor, work, business/companion**  
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*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>*

**Fellow-laborer 4904 sunergos of 4862 and the base of 2041;**

AV-fellowlabourer 4, helper 3, fellowhelper 2, fellowworkers 1, workfellow 1, labourer together with 1, companion in labour 1; 13

1) a companion in work, fellow worker Fellow

**Fellow-soldier - 4961 sustratiotes from 4862 and 4757;**

AV-fellowsoldier 2; 2

1) a fellow soldier

2) an associate in labours and conflicts for the cause of Christ

**Fellow-Prisoner 4869 sunaichmalotos**

from 4862 and 164; TDNT-1:195,31; n m

AV-fellowprisoner 3; 3

1) a fellow prisoner

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**Saints – hagios – sacred ones, set apart ones, chosen ones, holy ones**  
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*Philemon 1:5 Hearing of your love and faith, which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints <40>;*

*Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints <40> are refreshed by you, brother.*

**40 hagios** from hagos (an awful thing) [cf 53, 2282]; adj

AV-holy 161, saints 61, Holy One 4, misc 3; 229

1) most holy thing, a saint

For Synonyms see entry 5878