

THE CHURCH TOGETHER

* From its very beginning, the church was drawn to be together, to have **FELLOWSHIP**

#2842 **κοινωνία** *koinonia*

= community, communion, joint participation

= close mutual relations and involvement

= an interdependent relationship

= to hold or have something in common

(Acts 2:42)

1. True fellowship is unique and exclusive to us, the saved, those who have been born again

2. Our salvation brought us into fellowship with

a) God the Father

b) Jesus Christ our Lord

c) the Holy Spirit

d) one another as the called out ones

e) all those in the heavenly Jerusalem

(1 John 1:1-3, 6-7; 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14; Heb 12:22-24)

3. Man's relationship with God was described as "fellowship" only after Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers forever

4. Our fellowship is an inner unity of being but it is also a relationship of contribution, sharing and participation

5. The church is the body of Christ, doing and fulfilling the will of God in the world

(Ro 15:26; 2 Co 8:4; Phil 1:5; Heb 13:16)

* Therefore believers are encouraged to keep on **ASSEMBLING TOGETHER** especially as we see the day of Jesus' coming drawing near

#1997 **ἐπισυναγωγή** *episunagoge*

= a gathering together in one place

= denotes assembling as customary conduct

(Heb 10:23-25)

1. We, the church, being many, are

a) the one family or household of God

b) the one body of Christ in the world

(Eph 2:19; 1 Tim 3:15; Eph 4:12)

2. Therefore we are to

a) support and care for,

b) pray for,

c) restore and help,

d) teach and admonish and

e) in love serve one another

(Gal 6:2; 1 Co 12:26; Ja 5:16, 19-20; Col 3:16; Gal 5:13)

3. When the church gathers the fellowship we enjoy in Christ is strengthened and enriched through

a) the teaching / hearing of truth

b) corporate worship, prayer and song

c) celebrating our two "rites"

→ baptism

→ the Lord's supper

d) the collection (support for the saints)

(Phil 1:5-6, 3:3; Col 3:16; Eph 5:18-19; Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 8:4)

* Because true fellowship is so exclusive and holy, the Scripture places **LIMITATIONS** on our fellowship

1. We are to avoid any participatory or intimate or binding fellowship with the world

a) we are not to participate in the fruitless deeds of the world

b) "bad company corrupts good morals"

c) thoughtless friendship with the world provokes the Lord to jealousy

(2 Cor 6:14-16; Eph 5:11; 1 Cor 15:33, 10:20-22)

2. Within the church we are to withhold or withdraw fellowship from certain "believers" or so-called brothers

a) the immoral who are unrepentant

b) those who lead disobedient, unruly lives not in accordance with truth

c) those who cause divisions and teach false doctrines

(1 Cor 5:9-13; 2 The 3:6, 14-15; 2 Jn 9-11; Ro 16:17; Tit 3:10)

3. True Christian fellowship serves a two-fold purpose:

a) to enhance and enrich

b) to preserve and protect

the relationship we have with God and each other