

Koinonia / Fellowship

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[0 : 00] 1 Corinthians 10 verse 16. It says, The cup of blessing which we bless,!

Much as there's other words to describe this time, the table of the Lord and the love feast, the communion of the blood of Christ, the communion of the body of Christ.

And this word communion is the word koinonia. It's like the word koin with a K-O-N-I-A. Koinonia is the Greek word that we use for this word.

We translate communion. Communion of the blood of Christ, communion of the body of Christ. And I had a look through the word of God at all the different references to the word koinonia, from which we translate communion or fellowship.

And it's variously translated. It's got different meanings, such as fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, sharing, intimacy, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, an embodiment and proof of fellowship.

[1 : 25] And today at the Lord's table, at this time of communion, we're participating, we're sharing together in the blessing, in the blood, in the body. And some references where this word is likewise used, that we translate variously in the King James, the word koinonia or communion is also translated in other ways.

For example, in Romans 15, verse 26, it's translated as contribution. Contribution. Contribution. The context there is of the church of giving.

Romans 15, verse 26, For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. So there's a collection.

There was a contribution. Communion is a time of giving. A time of giving, a time of receiving. In Acts 2.42, koinonia happens again and it's translated with the word fellowship.

It says, And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship. There's that word communion again. The apostles' doctrine or teaching and fellowship or communion and in breaking of bread and in prayers.

[2 : 38] It's a time of fellowship. Communion is fellowship. It's church. It's participation in the life of Christ. It's participation in one another's lives in a positive way.

It's used that same word. It's used to fellowship again. In 1 Corinthians 1.9, it says, God is faithful by whom you were called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

It's about who we belong to, isn't it? Communion is about Christ. It's about our sharing with Him and together and our relationship with God.

It's a time of celebration and commemoration of that communion, of that fellowship. It's used again in 2 Corinthians 6.14, where we're told, Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion have light with darkness?

So we know that our communion is with light. It's with Christ. It's with God. It's with everything that's beautiful and wholesome and holy. It's not a communion, a partnership, or a connection with that which is not of Him.

[3 : 50] It's about teamwork. It's about joining up, joining together, and linking, about partnership with God. It's that transaction between God and man, isn't it?

We think of that at this time. And we think in 2 Corinthians 13, as Paul closed the letter of 2 Corinthians, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

Amen. It's that communion of the Holy Spirit, that fellowship, that sweet fellowship, with God the Holy Spirit. And that's that communion time that we have as we identify with Christ, that bond of brotherly love, and that common unity, that community of purpose and of joining together.

And Paul used it in Philippians 3, that we might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship. There's that word again. The fellowship of His sufferings.

