



# **Κοινωνία** **(Koinonia)**

1 John 1:3-4

**A letter addressed to Emperor Hadrian (c. 117-138) from Aristides of Athens sent to spy on these strange creatures called 'Christians'**

**“Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If one of them has something, he gives freely to the one who has nothing without boasting. If they see a stranger, Christians take him home and are happy as though he were a real brother. They don't consider themselves brothers in the usual sense, but brothers instead through the Spirit of God. And if they hear that one of them is in jail or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs and, if it is possible to redeem him, they set him free. And if there is among them any poor or naked and if they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply the needy...They live with much care, justly and soberly as the Lord their God commanded.....and they do not declare in the ears of the multitude the kind deeds they do but are careful that no one should take notice of them...Truly this is a new people and there is something divine in them.”**



## What is Koinonia?

**Above all, selfishness is connected w/ lovelessness  
AND Koinonia destroys the selfishness of fallen man.**



## 1 John 1: 3-4

**3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (NKJV)**



The Nature of Fellowship: Communion with God and His People

**Vertical** Fellowship

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## N.T. Wright

**"The word \*koinonia\* refers to the fellowship, the partnership, that believers have with one another and with God. It is about mutual participation in the life of God's people and the mission of the church."**



The Nature of Fellowship: Communion with God and His People

**Horizontal** Fellowship

**3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you,  
that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our  
fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus  
Christ.**



## According to Acts & the New Testament **Koinonia** was used:

- **Fellowship/Accountability** (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:25; Titus 2:1-8)
- **Encouragement** in their walk with the Lord (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 14:3, 12, 26; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:19-25)\*
- **Learn/Grow** through **scripture** reading/teaching (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2)\*
- **Celebrate** through **song/prayer** (Acts 2:42-47; 4:24; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16)





## The Completion of **JOY**

**4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

# Joy - Chara



**Nehemiah 8:10 "... And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."**

**Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."**

**Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."**

**Psalm 30:4-5 "4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning"**

**Proverbs 10:28 "The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish."**

**There is only one thing that can give true joy  
and that is contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ**



## Martyn Lloyd Jones

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones, in his expository series on 1 John, speaks of the completeness of joy that comes from fellowship with God. He highlights that the Christian life is not just about doctrine but about a personal, living relationship with God through Christ. Lloyd-Jones states, "The joy of the Christian life is derived from fellowship with God and with His Son. This is a joy that the world cannot give, and it is made complete as we share it with one another in the community of believers."**

## Leon Morris



In his commentary, Leon Morris underlines the idea that the fellowship mentioned in these verses is both vertical and horizontal. He writes, "The Christian life is about fellowship with God, which naturally extends to fellowship with other believers. The joy of this fellowship is a key theme in John's writings, emphasizing that our relationship with God brings about a shared joy that is to be lived out within the community of faith."

## Why such an emphasis on Koinonia?

- Acts 2:42-47: **42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. **44** Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. **45** They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number[a] those who were being saved.

**We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, isolated, and lonely is the greatest poverty.**

**+ Mother Teresa +**



## Jeremiah 17:5-8

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**5 Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”**



**Come Jesus Come**