




# Biblical Community- looking at koinonia

**SELECTED SCRIPTURES**

**PASTOR NICK LEE (JULY 30, 2023)**



Most people would agree that we are stronger together than individually:

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.

-Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

Supposed to be this togetherness in our walk with God (Opening slide- centered around the Cross).



What is Biblical  
Community? (Look  
specifically at  
the Greek word:  
Koinoinia).

KOINOINIA: IS OFTEN  
TRANSLATED  
(FELLOWSHIP).

# COMMUNITY:

A group that  
have something  
in common.





# 1 John 1:3

What we have seen and heard  
we proclaim to you also, so  
you too may have  
**fellowship** with us and indeed  
our **fellowship** is with the  
Father and with His Son Jesus  
Christ.  
(NASB)

What we have seen and heard  
we declare to you. So that you  
and we together may **share a**  
**common life**, that life which  
we share with the Father and  
His Son Jesus Christ.  
(New English Bible)

WE  
SHARE A  
COMMON  
LIFE!



Koinoinia then is basically a community relationship. It is not primarily an activity.

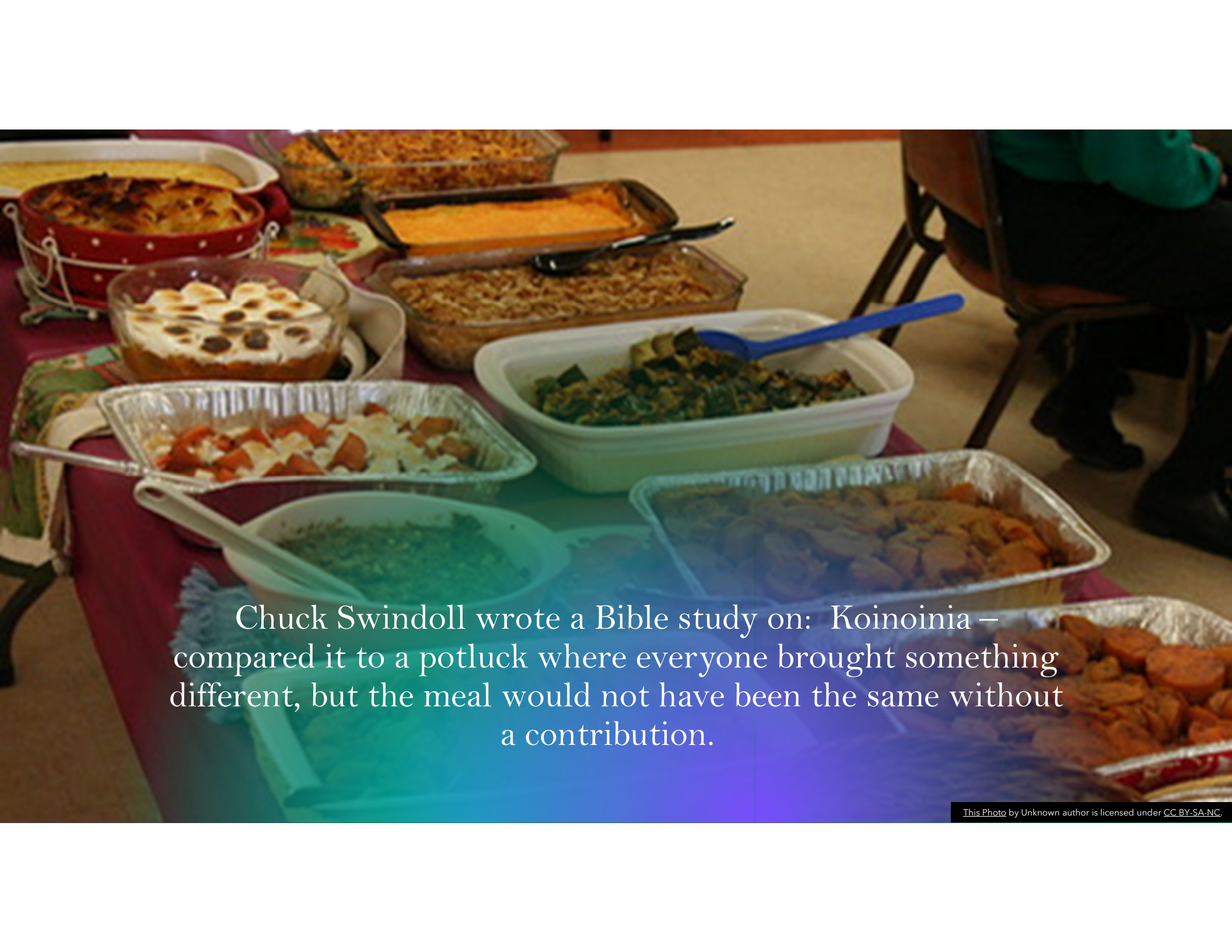
William Hendrickson





Sharing- everyone has something of value to contribute.





Chuck Swindoll wrote a Bible study on: Koinoinia – compared it to a potluck where everyone brought something different, but the meal would not have been the same without a contribution.

FIRST NT USAGE OF WORD:(42) They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teachings, and to **fellowship**, and to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (43) Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. (44) And all the believers were **together and had all things in common**. ... (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.  
Acts 2:42-44, 47.



# PARTNERSHIP



IDEA OF  
PARTNERSHIP: I.E.  
: PARTNERS IN THE  
MINISTRY OR  
GOSPEL. (A LOT OF  
THESE ARE FROM  
THE WRITINGS OF  
PAUL LIKE IN  
PHILEMON AND  
OTHER EPISTLES).

# KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

FELLOWSHIP IS SHARING A  
COMMON LIFE.

IT IS MORE ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP  
THAN IT IS ABOUT AN ACTIVITY.

WE ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING TO  
CONTRIBUTE. EXAMINE OUR  
HEARTS AND REFLECT ON THE  
WAY THAT WE ARE  
FELLOWSHIPPING. (EVERYTHING  
BUT A SERMON LIKE SETTING).





(8) whom will also confirm you to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(9) God is faithful, through whom you were called into **fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ** our Lord. (10) Now I urge you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you may be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

(1 Corinthians 1:8-10).



How we got into fellowship  
with Christ:

I have been crucified with  
Christ; it is no longer I  
who live, but Christ lives  
in me; and the life which I  
now live in the flesh, I live  
by faith in the Son of  
God, who loved me and  
gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)



CALLED  
TO HAVING  
A COMMON  
LIFE WITH  
CHRIST!



"FELLOWSHIP IS AFTER ALL NOT A MERE SHARING OF BIBLICAL TRUTH WITH EACH OTHER OR JUST HAVING A GOOD SOCIAL TIME TOGETHER, FELLOWSHIP IS SHARING A COMMON LIFE IN CHRIST. ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT WE UNDERSTAND AND APPROPRIATE THE LIFE WE HAVE IN CHRIST WILL WE BE ABLE TO SHARE THAT WITH OTHERS."

-JERRY BRIDGES IN HIS BOOK: TRUE COMMUNITY.





VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP  
WITH CHRIST, IMPACTS THE  
RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE  
HAVE WITH OTHERS! (BOTH  
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE  
CHURCH).

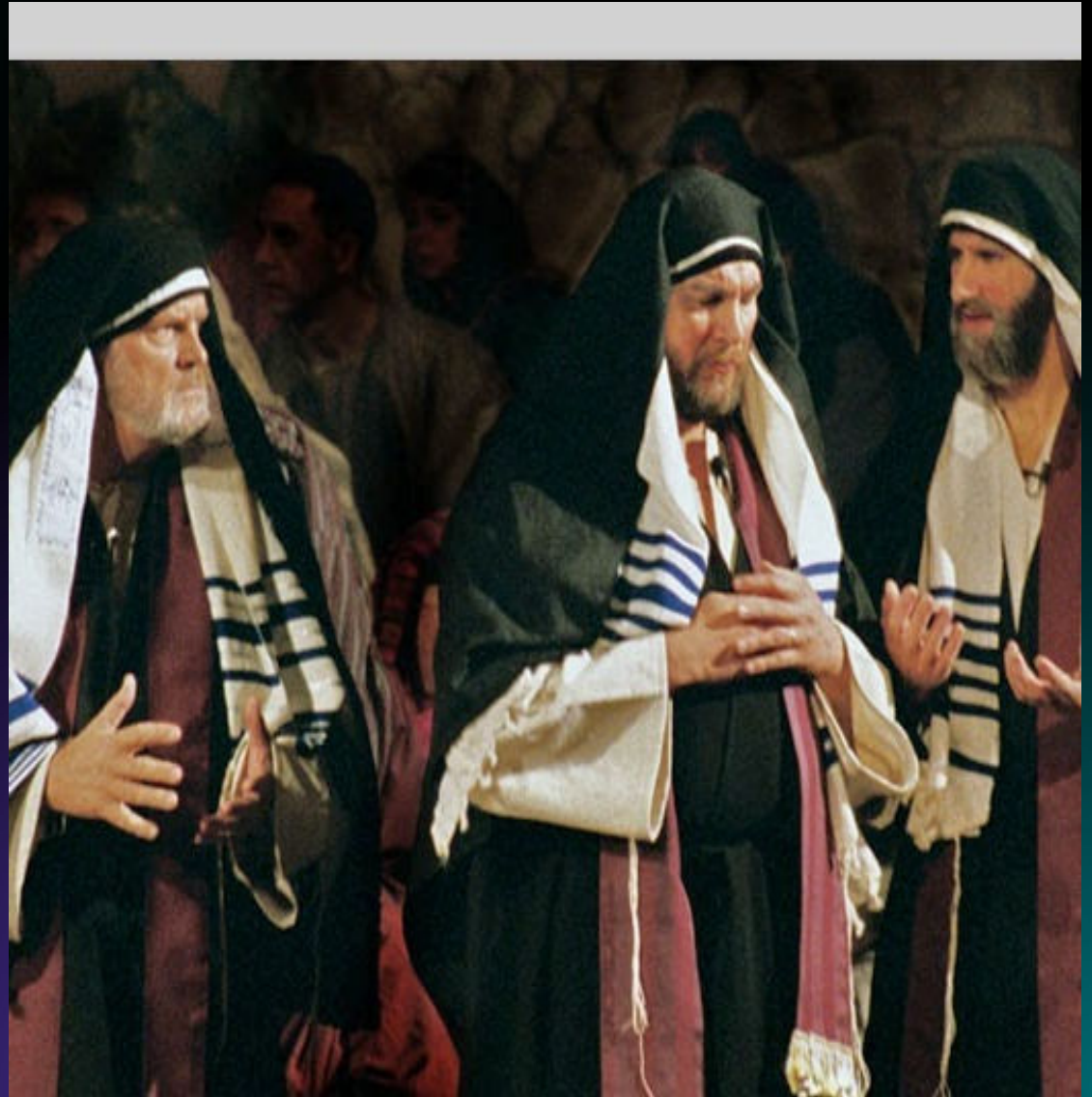
COUNTER-CULTURAL IN  
THAT WE LIVE IN A  
SOCIETY THAT IS VERY  
MUCH MY RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD MY BUSINESS!

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH  
GOD AFFECTS EVERYONE!



We want to be careful and not become "Pharisees".

How dare you talk about: \_\_\_\_\_ in church?



## 4 Common ways people live life with God! (credit to: Navigators)



- Example of: Moving something heavy from one spot to another!
- (1) Try to do it in on their own (by their own effort). They will Inevitably fail and be frustrated!
- (2) "Let Go and Let God." Opposite approach to number one (maybe even a reaction) I am not going to do anything.
- (3) Partially trust God: God I am going to do as much as I can and if I need help can you pick up the other end?
- (4) God enable Me! Abiding in Christ & being strengthened by the Holy Spirit! (Branches are vitally attached to the Vine). "Apart from me you can do nothing." Christ isn't telling us we are "worthless" you are worth so much to me that I want you to be so closely attached to me! I want to live my life out through you!



FOR HE HIMSELF IS OUR  
**PEACE**, WHO HAD MADE  
BOTH ONE, AND HAS  
BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE  
WALL OF SEPARATION.

EPH. 2:14 (NASB)

CONTEXT: EPH. 2:13-19.

PEACE: JOINING TWO  
OPPOSING FORCES.

