

KOINONIA

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Father this morning we look to You Lord, You are our Father, You birthed us through Your Spirit and You have given us the authority to become the sons and daughters of the living God. That's why we have come here. We have come as Your children so that we may learn of Your Spirit how to become more and more like Your Children; how we ought to live how we ought to talk, how we ought to walk, how we ought to behave, how does God's children live out their lives. So, teach us Lord, speak to us O Lord, show us Lord, empower us O Lord. Jesus, we look unto You. You are the Author and the Finisher of our faith. We commit all here and all online and around the world, we commit them all into Thy hands, we are one body in Christ. Spirit of God I release this time into Thy hands and each one, meet us at our points of need. Where we need correction, where we need strength, where we need healing, where we need deliverance, where we need encouragement, You alone know Lord and You alone are able to do it. We are entirely dependent upon You Jesus. Do Thy work in our midst for in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Remember we were looking from the Book of Joshua. We will just go through few verses but we will shift to the New Testament for today but the principles are there. We will look at Joshua 5. This is after they have crossed the river. All these experiences are after Israel has crossed the river Jordan

Joshua 5:8-11

⁸ So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore, the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day.

If you read that portion, those chapters where they crossed over, so much in it. You can go through it verse by verse what God is doing with a new generation of believers. The first generation complained, grumbled, gossiped, slandered, wandered and wasted their lives. All that God had for them, they didn't possess anything. All they saw was the testimony that twelve people brought from the other side. They saw it but they never possessed what God had for them simply because they were complaining and murmuring and grumbling and never believing and obeying God by faith. Now God has raised up another generation. It is a different generation; such unity has been forged. They are literally one people under Joshua. You need to understand what God is able to do when unity is forged and that's what is happening and they have to go through a process and God is not hurrying anything. We need to understand because sometimes we want God to hurry but God is not in a hurry about anything because He has what is important to Him. What is important to me and you may not be important to God. So, we need to understand what is important to God. Here, first, what He does is that, they were all circumcised and I believe all of you are baptized or most of you are baptized. Everybody had to go through one institution and enter into a covenant. Now they became a covenanted people. It is in the waters of baptism that we enter into a covenant with God. Remember it is an eternal covenant. God made an eternal covenant with Israel and the mark of it was circumcision. We enter into an eternal covenant with God and that is when we get baptized, then become one people through that and then the Bible says if we go further, back to verse 8 and 9

⁸ So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you"

And you have to believe. How can circumcision do something inside you? You have to believe. The day you got baptized everything of your past was erased, it's not there. If any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold all things have become new. So, he says, everything of Egypt, your bondage to slavery your bondage to Pharaoh all that thing is in the past, it doesn't exist, I have rolled it away.

You have to believe because if you don't do these things, if you don't believe these things, we will not be able to move into what God has for us. Rolled away and therefore the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. Gilgal means the place where it was rolled away, your reproach was rolled away. You should always remember the day of your baptism because that is the day of your death, your burial and the rise of the new man. Remember the sermons you heard the last two Sunday, resurrection is for the dead and what Jesus offers is resurrection power. Resurrection is not for the living, it is not for the Old man, it is for the new man. So, it's new men, set of new people who are rising. And then if you go to verse 10 it says, the children of Israel camped in Gilgal and the first thing they do now is they observed Passover

Joshua 5:10

¹⁰Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover . . .

We talked from worship in the beginning through prayer, what are we thanking God for? We are thanking God for the Blood of His Son, that is the reason we are here. We are fighting a battle that was already won. How was it won? By His Blood. The devil has no answer. God's wrath was perfectly satisfied when the Son shed His blood on the Cross and on the Cross He took all the requirements of the law and nailed it on the Cross. It's been taken away. He's completed what God requires from every one of us. Nobody is fighting for salvation here. You can never fight for salvation. You are fighting for sanctification but that is for the saved. So, we need to realize that is where they begin and the Bible says, they camped in Gilgal, kept the Passover the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho and the same day something happened. There was a tangible difference in the old life. Manna stopped. And they ate the produce of that land. Now they are partaking of the very life of Christ,

Joshua 5:10-12

¹⁰ Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

You will see after that the battles begin and they are going to win and we to go through that process. But this morning I want to turn to Acts 2 and see how we see this in the New Covenant. Acts 2:36-47

Acts 2:36-47

³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

What a powerful passage. It still should make the little hair you have stand on its end. This is how the church began. Two thousand years later the church is a Sunday morning service, in a rented auditorium. Where has the life of God gone? Where has it disappeared? What went wrong? Almost everywhere in the world, church

is restricted to two hours, three hours on a Sunday morning but that's not how it was; this is the beginning of the Church. This is where the church began. And you see the power of God released into a community like that.

Normally structures are like this; square, rectangular usually, structures. Of course you have triangular like a wigwam the American Indians used to live or a round shaped igloo the Eskimos lives but primarily, it is rectangular or squarish and usually every structure primarily you can have more if is larger, but has four pillars. You need these four pillars for that structure to be strong. If you take one pillar off, the structure starts wobbling. You take two off, it collapses. You need four. You will see how the church was built. One of the things which I teach Pastors and every country, every city where I go I teach them. You are a Pastor, you want to build your church, it doesn't matter what the pressure is from the world or from the congregation, there is only one way to build the church and the format is given where the church began.

The first in verse 38 is not a pillar, it is a condition. If you want to be part of the church, enter into the Kingdom of God, the first is a condition – repent. Repent of your sins, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for what He has done and be baptized. One has got to do with sin, that is repentance; the other has got to do with life God is offering that is baptism because life begins actually after that. It is a resurrection of the dead. Because we were dead in our trespasses. If you are not saved this morning, the reality in Heaven about you is you are dead because your name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. So, your current reality is irrelevant. You may feel young, youthful, full of energy, vigor but in Heaven you are dead. You become alive when your name is written and your name is written the day you repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you enter into a covenant when you go through the waters of Baptism. So, the first is a condition. Repent, believe, and be baptized and the Bible says over there - those who gladly received that message. It is not easy. If you are living in such a conservative orthodox Judaic society, even now, if a Jew in Israel becomes Christian, do you know what happens to him? If a Muslim becomes Christian, do you know what happens to him or her or a Hindu in a Hindu community becomes a Christian what happens to them. For the Bible says, they gladly received.

Everywhere in the Bible if you read carefully, whether it was among the Jews or whether it was in Thessalonica who are gentiles, they received with great joy and they all paid the price and they are willing to pay the price. Did you receive the Gospel with joy? Those who received gladly, the Bible says they were baptized. They received His Word, were baptized and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. So, they were hundred and twenty. Now, there is three thousand one hundred and twenty. The Church has begun. Go to verse 42. These are the four pillars on which every church is built.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And they continued steadfastly. Another translation says, *they committed themselves, steadfastly*. What is the first thing? Doctrine. Why do you need doctrine? Because it is a new life. It is not the life you and I lived before. It is a completely new life. Old things have passed away; all things have become new. Like I told you, the most dramatic or in its own simplicity God uses the illustration of what it is, He said, it's a new birth. Unless you have been born from above and Nicodemus the theologian is shocked, he doesn't understand. He says, how can I be born again? How can I go back into my mother's womb and come out again? He says, no. You are born of the Spirit. Like I use this example, right? When the baby is in the mother's womb, the only faculty I think really works is its ears. It can't see, it doesn't even breathe. It doesn't eat. Its oxygen supply is through the umbilical cord. His nourishment is through the umbilical cord and then when it is born, you hear the first cry, not the baby store but the first cry means he or she started breathing, starts breathing. It has to be fed, everything has changed for the child, everything radically has changed. It is a totally new life. It needs two full-time caretakers called parents to teach it how to live and the mother is the main caretaker. Why do you need a caretaker? Because this child does not know this life at all.

So, there is a set of three thousand people who are born again. They had lived a different life, kosher life Judaism but this life is radically different and they have to be taught how to live. So, the first thing they need to live is doctrine and the Apostles are teaching it. These are not the Apostle's doctrine but the doctrine

taught by the Apostles which is the doctrine of Christ. That's what we spent lot of our time teaching. What are we teaching? How Would Christ live in you. Simple thing, if Christ were in me, or if Christ were in my shoes what would He do? What would He be thinking now? What would He be doing? How would He live my life out? If you get the questions right, you get the right answers because our questions are wrong so often we don't get the answers because our question is usually, 'Lord give me some of Your power to live my life out,' and then we get frustrated. The power of God is to live His life. You will receive power and you shall be My witnesses. His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and to the ends of the earth. The patterns are there. If you turn with me to *Matthew 3*, we are looking at Jesus because where does our faith come from? Looking unto Jesus the Author and the Finisher, Perfecter of our faith. So, let us see when Jesus is displayed to us before that we hardly know anything about Him.

Matthew 3:16-17

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

When He had been baptized. You see, there is hardly anything mentioned about His life, before. Can we think about the most important Person ever to be born and hardly anything is written about the first thirty years of His life? Which is true about all of us. When you go to Heaven you will realize your history begins now, after you got baptized. Before that it doesn't matter what all you say. It is irrelevant. It is dead history. So, ***Jesus gets baptized and then Jesus came up immediately from the water, behold the heavens were open to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove alighting upon Him and suddenly a voice came from Heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.***

The battles begin. The trials and the temptations begin. Only for baptized people, only for saved people. Honestly when I look back into my life, before I was saved, I had no troubles, I had no temptations. Before I was saved, it was very easy to handle temptation - just give in. It was so easy to handle temptation, you just had to give in but then once you get saved, the battle began. Once you got baptized the battles and the trials began. That's why we need power. We move into a different realm; a realm of trials and temptation and that's why we need doctrine. That's why we need teaching. How to handle this new life because if you get saved, you get baptized and you are not empowered by the Holy Spirit and you don't have doctrine, you will just fall apart. So much confusion is there in the Church, it is not because people are not saved. It's because people do not have doctrine and the doctrine they receive is sadly often false. It is the doctrine connected with the Old life and nothing with the New life because if you look into nay T.V. channel, most of them or you listen to them. It is all about this life. It is about health and wealth and gain. That is not the doctrine of Christ.

The doctrine of Christ, the doctrine which is post death and resurrection; it is a different doctrine all together. Yes there is prosperity in it but that is not the goal. That is something that follows you. These signs shall follow those who believe but people are following signs, signs are not following them. Read the Book of Acts, you will not see the Church running after signs, signs were happening among them. Why? Because they were following the doctrine of Christ. And we have to be very, very careful. What am I following? One generation wandered and were destroyed in the desert simply because they followed the doctrine of Egypt of the world because every time there was trouble their reference point was the world from which they were saved and they wandered and they died. The second generation never talked about Egypt, never talked about Egypt. You read from *Joshua 1* till the last they never talked about Egypt, they never talked about it. So we need to ask ourselves, what do I talk about? What do I think about? What is my real life? This is the questions which we need to ask because we know we are coming towards those days.

So, we need to understand like we hear about revivals, outpourings of the Holy Spirit here and there, the Nashville and all these, Asberry all these places, why is that revivals don't last? You know why? Because the doctrine of the Kingdom is not there. Individually looking, ask yourself, have you been able to continue in the Spirit never buckling, never changing. The only possibility for the Holy Spirit to continuously work in a person's life is doctrine. He needs the doctrine. That's one pillar. This is Your Word, I receive it by faith, I walk by faith and not sight. So, the first pillar of the Church was doctrine. First pillar is doctrine, those who were saved, I remember I told you, those are not pillars but those are fundamental things which we go through. We repent, we get baptized our death, burial and resurrection to a new life and a new baby needs; milk, it needs meat, it keeps growing up – doctrine. If the Apostles hadn't been there, and the three thousand people got baptized and left, what you would have had was chaos. They didn't leave and they had come from all parts of the world; they hung there, they received the doctrine. If you look at *Romans 6:3-5* they went through this, this is baptism.

Romans 6:3-5

³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. What kind of life? Not the old life, newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

So, the first and the most important thing that happened was, all those who repented, believed, and how do you know they believed? They got baptized. Everybody did not get baptized, everybody did not receive it, only three thousand. There were probably tens and thousands of people because it's the festival where three times a year the young people of Israel have to gather, there were in there, so many were there. Three thousand believed and they went through that institution and then verse 17 says

Romans 6:17

¹⁷But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Do you know that we were delivered from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light, into a form of doctrine? The word form over there actually means, a mold, cast or a mold. Lot of people they don't understand mold or anything. For Indian it is very easy, have you eaten Idly? You know the dough, pour it into that mold, steam it, it comes out in a different shape. The doctrine is a mold, then we come out a different person all together. You received what, the form, the mold of doctrine to which you were delivered. So, the Church began very powerfully and what is happening over there? They have doctrine. If you don't have doctrine, you don't spend time on listening, the problem I'm telling you, the problem which twenty-first century, usually churches do not have this in the old days, so much trouble like we had. The thing is that all people are listening to different doctrines. You all have your favorite preachers on the internet and T.V. and all yet you belong here. You are all eating in restaurants and never eating from your home. The problem is, you always have gastroenteritis. Why? Because you are not eating from home. If I were to ask or even now, there are people sitting downstairs. I'm telling you there are people who will be wandering there downstairs sitting in the car. I have seen people in this church sitting in the car and not listening to the message, when he was preaching, I go out and they are not young people. I ask them what are you doing here? You need to understand Christ's death and resurrection resulted in a Church. It's a completely different thing. If we were to ask you of the past one week that is behind us, how many messages did you here? There are many who did not hear even one message, yet they have listened to many other messages and you will realize what happens, what God wants to do does not happen. Look in *Isaiah 5:13* and *Hosea 4:6* what happened to Israel.

Isaiah 5:13

¹³Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Therefore, my people have gone into captivity because they have no knowledge. Why do they go into captivity? Why did Israel go into captivity? Why did the first generation go into captivity literally wandered and die in the wilderness when they had the best teacher in the Old Covenant called Moses? Because they did not receive his teachings. Second generation received his teaching, in Deuteronomy he is speaking to the second generation. They received his teaching, they went in and possessed the land. They received the doctrine and that's why he says, let my doctrine fall like the rain. And they received it. They just died, their honorable men are famished and their multitude dried with thirst, why? Because they don't receive doctrine. *Hosea 4:6* same thing,

Hosea 4:6

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge, what is this knowledge? It is not what you get in schools and colleges. Show me one person, who went to school or college and got saved because of what he heard in the class room? One person. Show me one person who went to school, intermediate first year, second year, undergraduate, P. G. whatever degrees. Show me one person who said because of what I learnt in school and college I got saved. Nobody, so, we are not talking about that knowledge, we are talking about the knowledge of God. My people are destroyed. So, in the Old Covenant, they were destroyed because they did not know the doctrine of God, how to live yet they had all the promises and if they lived by that promises, if any generation turn around and lived by that promise, they were undefeatable. Whether it was Joshua's generation, whether it was under David or Solomon, or Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, Josiah, it didn't matter how small they were and how huge the enemy was, they were not defeated. It is simply because of the doctrine they believed. They could not be defeated. We sang the song, right? We're fighting a battle that has already been won. I'm not concentrating today on doctrine, don't get me wrong but you cannot go to the other pillar without going through doctrine because you have to cross the first stage, the first pillar is doctrine. We have to understand doctrine, how does this new man, new woman, new child in Christ live? It is the newness of life.

Then you go to *Acts 2:42* we come to the second pillar.

Acts 2:42

⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

They gather steadfastly for the Apostle's doctrine and the second thing, and fellowship. What did they gather for? Fellowship. It is interesting. The first time this word is used in the Bible, the word Koinonia. The word fellowship should not be used in the world. It is a sacred term to be used only in the living body of Christ. They gathered steadfastly for Koinonia. It is not a secular word, it is a sacred word. We are confused because now they are talking about fellowship, fellowship, fellowship which is basically clubs, shared mutual interest. No, it is not. Koinonia is not a word to be used lightly. First you have the word which is called Ecclesia, the ones who have come out that is through your baptism, only for those who have come out can have Koinonia. Understand, it's a very, very powerful word. They carried that life with them, something has changed radically. Fellowship is a life lived out based on the doctrine you have received. The proof of everything is Koinonia. I could read it out to you how you should read that portion.

They devoted themselves to Koinonia, and all the believers were together – Koinonia. Had everything in common – Koinonia. Every day they continued to meet together – Koinonia. They broke bread in their homes – Koinonia. Ate together – Koinonia. That is what it implies. It was a shared life. Life lived out, a life that is proven. The doctrine was tested – Are you living this life out? A few years later you will see what happens. *Acts 8:1* the Bible says,

Acts 8:1

¹Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Meaning, they were all outwardly headless. Apostles were in Jerusalem, people have been scattered. Shepherds are in Jerusalem, sheep has been scattered, God was testing them. Did you learn? Have you received the life? This is the test for you. Look at verse 4

Acts 8:4

⁴Therefore, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

They were not destroyed for lack of knowledge, they actually were full of the life, they had received in Koinonia, in the fellowship. Ask this question, because this is the second pillar and our issue is with the second pillar. Everything is about Koinonia. Doctrine is about Koinonia, the third pillar, breaking of bread is about Koinonia, prayer is about Koinonia, if you take Koinonia out everything will fall apart. When you reach heaven, there isn't much doctrine, there is no breaking of bread, there is probably, no prayer at all but there will be everlasting Koinonia. We don't even know what Koinonia is. That's why when you read that portion, it still should make your hair stand, what kind of a church was this? What kind of a life is this? Let me tell you something. This never happened in Israel's history. Israel had religion, they did not have Koinonia. Three times a year, Israelites gathered, the men gathered. They did not have Koinonia. It is a completely new word coined in the New Covenant. It was not possible to have Koinonia in the Old Covenant because the Spirit was not given, the proof of the Spirit of God living in the church is Koinonia. You had doctrine in the Old Covenant, they ate bread in the Old Covenant, Melchizedek brought bread and wine for Abraham, they had plenty of prayers and powerful intercessors in the Old Covenant but what they could not have in the Old Covenant was Koinonia, it was not possible. So, we need to understand, what does it mean, what is a church? You know when in the garden of Eden, doctrine was given to Adam and Eve, it's a very simple doctrine, very simple, doctrines are very simple, if you listen to last night's Q & A, this Gospel is very simple because the Giver of the Gospel, Jesus, is very simple, not complicated like you. He's a very simple Man.

So, He's a very simple teacher and His Gospel is very simple. So, instructions to Adam is very simple. Eat everything don't eat that, you eat this, you will live, you eat that you will die. Very simple. Eat this child, this don't eat, what's so complex about that? Then, this is your house, tend it, take care of it. You see that? Then He looks at him, God cannot be with Adam all the time, so God has His own work to do – I and My Father are at work from the beginning is what Jesus says. So, He looks at Adam and He says, it is not good for Adam to be alone. He needs Koinonia. He need fellowship. When I preach in weddings I always tell them, the primary purpose of marriage is not to have children, it is to have fellowship and if you do not have fellowship, your marriage is a failure. It doesn't matter how successful you are in every other area, your marriage has failed because the primary purpose of marriage is fellowship. Where two people become one through fellowship. They disobeyed God, they sinned and as soon as sin came, do you know what happened? Koinonia broke. The first result of sin is, fellowship broke between man and God and man and woman, fellowship broke. *Genesis 3:8* it is God who is coming seeking to restore fellowship. *Genesis 3:8, 9*

Genesis 3:8-9

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

When you read these things, understand, husbands and wives, learn a lesson from there. They heard the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. So, wives, when you husband is losing his cool, don't try to have fellowship. Wait until he is cool because you can have better fellowship. Be wise like Abigail, she waited until her husband was sober then she had fellowship and he fell dead. These are not random verses, this is Scripture. Most of the problems are, I mean in a conflict usually, because God knows men, men are

angry. That's why through Timothy He says, men lift up holy hands without anger, without wrath because he knows we can pray angrily also. So, men are angry, women are mischievous because the Bible says, the woman was deceived. Now, I didn't say that, so, don't look at me angrily, God said it. Women are prone to deception, it is because they are made emotional, they are prone to deception. Emotions are very deceptive, now men and women are not receiving the doctrine even the same way you know that. Men will receive doctrine to reason and the women takes it through emotions. I like this one, I don't like that one. It is not up to you what to like and what to dislike. Doctrine is life, this is not a buffet. It doesn't work like that.

That is why the devil went to Eve, he didn't go to Adam. She got deceived, she gave it to him. The Bible says, Adam was not deceived and she gave it to him and that is basically what actually happens in homes. The idea is given to the woman, she receives it with full passion and then she gives it to the man, Lord have mercy on him if he doesn't receive that fruit. Once he has eaten the fruit, he feels naked and ashamed. This is basically what happens. Yes, it is like the Pastor who said, I may be the head but my wife is the neck, she makes me turn whichever way she wants. So, you need to understand God who made us, knows us and He says, that is not the way to be.

So, they have fallen, God has come in the cool of the evening to have His regular time of fellowship and verse 9 says, they are hiding and the Lord called to Adam and said to him, where are you? What is the first thing that meant? The previous day he was waiting at that place, today he's run away. Are you running away? Like I told you, church is the best hiding place because the Pastor thinks you are spiritual and God knows you are hiding. It's a good hiding place. Adam is hiding from God, what broke down? Fellowship broke down. The Son of Man came to seek, to save the lost. There was unbroken communion between God and Adam till that day. What sin brought is a break of fellowship. Next, what you see a break of fellowship between man and woman. He says, 'The woman You gave'; the woman says, 'It's the serpent.' The blame game begins, it's never ended.

Does it sound familiar, happening in homes? Everything post fall, what man is trying to do is fill that vacuum. Everything you are trying to do will ultimately become meaningless at the end of your life if you don't focus on Koinonia because whatever you are trying to do is trying to fill the vacuum. If you have doubt, ask Solomon. Ask the question, what is wrong in the things he pursued? Primarily nothing, why was he empty at it? Because it was all at the cost of fellowship with God. I'm telling you, the emptiness you feel, you say, 'I work so hard, I get all these accolades, but after two days I'm empty.' 'I work, I read, I do this,' whatever that you are doing, have you noticed nothing lasts? You know why? Because that's not the way. Jesus came to show us the way back. The reason He died on the Cross. We had a powerful song today. The Blood was shed, was the remission of our sins and, what happens when I'm forgiven of my sins? I'm restored back to fellowship with God first, then with men who also have had the remission of their sins; not with the others. Primarily, vertically with God, horizontally with the others who have experienced the same grace of God. It is not possible to have fellowship with the others at the same level because Koinonia is a very specific special word.

So, if that is what His death did for me, the question to ask is, do I have Koinonia? Do I have fellowship? Because that is what and, how does that fellowship come? How is it possible for all of us to actually fellowship? If we lean on the one thing we all have in common – it is the Spirit of God. We were born again by the same Spirit. In a family there is fellowship because it is the same blood, five children same blood. Here, if we are all born again, born again by the same Spirit, at the end of the service, I will give a benediction, what is the benediction? May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Spirit – the Koinonia of the Holy Spirit rest with you. That's how we are one. It was the love of the Father that sent the Son, it is the grace of the Son that saved me but it is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that makes us one – the Koinonia. We become one. And it only happens in Church, it cannot happen anywhere else because the church is a called-out body to exhibit the life which is Koinonia. That is why when you read *Acts 2:42-47*, your hairs should stand, what a church! And we need to ask ourselves, first question *John 1:12*,

John 1:12

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

As many as received Him. Like I said, you don't receive doctrine first, you receive, the person of Christ first, the Spirit of Christ comes in. That's how we are born again. Receiving an idea will only make you a communist. You know you can become a communist without ever knowing Karl Max, or Fredrich Angels? You don't have to receive them, all you have to receive is their idea. To become a Buddhist, you don't have to receive Buddha, you only have to receive his teachings. To become a Hindu, you don't have to receive any of their gods, all you have to receive is their teachings. To become a Muslim, no Muslim says, I surrender and I receive Mohammed into my heart. He doesn't, he never says that. He only has to follow the precepts. You can never become a Christian by receiving doctrine, you become a Christian by receiving Christ and that is when the beginning, the Spirit of Christ comes in and you are born. It is the Spirit of Christ. God gives His Holy Spirit and the Bible says as many who receive Him, He gave them the right to become the children of God. What do children do? They fellowship. Now, it's vacation time, right? children are all at home. What are they doing? They have their own games and their own fellowship. Children love vacation. They can keep themselves busy for hours together doing nothing and having make up plays; I am doctor, you are a patient, giving injection. They have wonderful fellowship. What did God make us? Children of God. Then *1 John 1:3*

1 John 1:3

¹³That 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.

John is saying, everything that I'm writing is a result of my fellowship with God and His Son, what is that I teach from here? John is making it very clear, he says, you can have fellowship with me, because I fellowship with God. This is the criteria, you want to have fellowship with me, you need to want to have fellowship with God. It is about fellowship. Look at that statement. That which we have seen and heard we declare to you that you also may have fellowship with us. If you say, 'Pastor I want to know you, I really want to walk with you.' Really? I will tell you one way you can walk with me. You have to love my God. You have to serve my God. One thing I have told everybody including my family, my children, you can come between me and anything except: never dare to come between me and my God. If you ever put that question before me, I will choose my God over you. Don't ever do that. So, you want to fellowship with me, you need to know what is most important for me, the Person for me. That's what he is saying, you can fellowship with us, why? Because truly, our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son and Jesus Christ. Because there is fellowship in the world. It is not Koinonia, it is base. These are clubs, cricket club, music and arts. All kinds of clubs are there, it's shared interest but there is no Koinonia. Koinonia is shared life. Once the club activities are over, everybody goes back and they forget. They have only one common point of interest. Church does not have a common point of interest. It has a common life.

1 Corinthians 1:9

⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

See, most people are lost in churches because they don't build these pillars. This is the only way. The difference between a child and an orphan, what is the difference between a child and an orphan. The child has a home, the orphan is in an orphanage. In some orphanages the children living there may eat better than a child who lives in a home. But that does not make the orphanage a home. You go to boarding schools, high-funda boarding schools, they have all the facilities, all the games under the sun, everything, you pay through your nose but there is no Koinonia. There is no life. That can never replace a home. My mother is ill, she's bed ridden, she's got five children, right? She's with me, let me tell you the reason and I'll also tell you something. She has five children but her four children don't miss her. Do you know why? Because they grew up in the hostels from class one, so they don't miss her like I do. You send your children to boarding school, then you grow old, don't complain, because you broke the law of Koinonia. So, they don't know how to relate. Why my sisters say that, when we grew up as little girls and reached our puberty, we had to learn all the things on our own because our mother was never there but she was sacrificing her life there so that they could have an education but we made education our idol but we don't blame them, they did not know Christ, they did not know nor understand all those things but for those of you who know, stand by it – I will not

sacrifice Koinonia for anything in life, because when I go to Heaven life is Koinonia; the shared life of the Holy Spirit.

Fellowship

Romans 12:1-2

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

And we say, 'Here Lord, I give You my body, in which is my soul and spirit.' God says, 'Go to church.' Where do you offer your body? See, people become very spiritual and they are not practical at all. People who say, 'I have surrendered' never attend church. They never fellowship, they don't know the problem of the person sitting next to them for the past 5 years. Where is your Koinonia? They have never invited the person sitting beside them, ever to their home, while it is written – ***they ate gladly***. They gathered in the temples, but they ate in their homes every day. Now, I'm not saying that you need to go home to home, you live in the city. But you can send. How much does it cost you? Oh! I think this sister or this brother is struggling, I know where he lives. Uber eats. 50 rupees? 100 rupees? Did you ever think? Modernize it in the 21st century, turn it around, 'This one is hungry, I know. That one,' but everybody is so caught up in their own lives, where is koinonia? Where is the Spirit of God flowing? How are you going to prepare when the day of persecution comes? What is going to happen to you when this nation is declared as a Hindu rashtra? And it will happen. No church will ever be exempt from persecution. God will bring it to every Nation, because that is your final test. Then you will know whether you have lived a shared life or not. What happens? So, offer yourself, your bodies and your lives are offered to God. And this (Church) is a place of surrender, you have come together. We have come together, we try to make it as comfortable as possible, but you need to come together, there has to be a surrender and then,

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The world has its own ways of living. Transformation has to take place. If you want to live that life called koinonia, transformation has to take place. You have to start thinking differently. That is what John is saying, first and foremost our fellowship is with the Father and the Son, through the Holy Spirit. That is how the Trinity operate; They are One through the Spirit. And that is what God wants to do with us; He wants to make us one among ourselves and with Him through the Spirit. That is why the same Spirit is given.

That is why as the first act of salvation what is given is the Holy Spirit and not doctrine. Doctrine is not given to people who is not given the Spirit. They will take and run in another direction. Doctrine is given to people to whom has been given the Spirit of God because the intention of the doctrine is to share one life; the life of God. So every sin, listen carefully, every sin is a sin against that shared life; against that Spirit, against Koinonia.

So they are going wonderfully, they have crossed over, they have done everything as Joshua has commanded, they are all pumped up and ready to go, Jericho comes down after 6 days as one unit they march 13 times, the walls come down, they take the city and one man breaks Koinonia. One man called Achan breaks the law of Koinonia. The next day 36 men die. 36 families are without their fathers, there are 36 widows and there are orphans in the camp because one man broke the law of Koinonia; the Spirit that keeps us together. In the Apostolic Church, one man and his wife try to break that Koinonia and God struck them dead. Ananias and Saphira. What were they trying to do? Why was there such a terrible judgment? It is because they were breaking Koinonia; the Spirit of God that was moving. And that is why the question Peter asked to the Husband and they wife is –

‘Why did you lie to the Spirit? That is the life that is flowing here.’ Then when she comes, after the husband is dead, he says, ‘How did you both agree to test the Holy Spirit?’ Where was the Spirit? In Koinonia.

Koinonia, that is our life. There is no other life God offers. So don’t look at all these things on T.V mega churches, all these. If it is irrelevant if there is no life. We are not running a program; this is not a performance. The church is not an organization though it may have structure, it is a living organism. It is not an organization, though it has structure. It is a living organism.

Philippians 1:1

¹Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Did you see? It is written to people who are in Christ. Every Epistle is written to people who are in Christ, who have the Spirit of God. And what are you called? Saints, sanctified ones, set apart ones.

Philippians 1:5

⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

What is it that unites us? What is our purpose? What is our commonality? It is the Gospel. It is the Gospel. There is a fellowship of the Gospel, we all heard the Gospel, we were all saved through the Gospel, because the Gospel or the Good News is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first and then to the Greek, for in it a righteousness of God is revealed and it is from faith unto faith. We are all fellowshiping based on this Gospel. It is the fellowship of the Gospel and a fellowship unto the Gospel.

Philippians 2:1

¹Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

It is the fellowship of the Spirit. And then as you grow,

Philippians 3:10

¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Right now we have a small baby over there, Sakshi was there, she was crying and the mom took her out. Why? She does not share in any sufferings of the parents, because she has to be protected, carried, fed, looked after and everything, but as a child starts growing up, you give them chores. You are part of a family; we all have to share in the burden. So the little one starts putting away the toys. You don’t have to be perfect the first few times but learn to fold your blankets. The little one will stand on his bed and fold it. Go ahead, do it. It doesn’t have to be perfect, but you need to realise that you now have to share in the sufferings of the family. Till yesterday I did it for you, now you have to do it own your own. So as we grow, we share in the fellowship of His sufferings. His sufferings were for the Body therefore our sufferings should be for the Body of Christ. Share! Fellowship grows. But it begins with the Gospel. And that is our shared cause; it begins with the Gospel, that should never change our focus. We should be united by the purpose of the Gospel because in the Gospel is the power of God. So never, ever fear to share, be a witness, let your light shine.

I shared yesterday during the Q & A because of the question that was asked. I shared that there is an anointing that was given that makes the burden light. All of you, except for pastor Vijay, Ma and me, all of you are in the secular realm. How many of you ask every day and depend upon the anointing to do your work? Do you know why you don’t have time, you are worn out, and you struggle? I gave my testimony – when I first worked as a rooky, young man, first time in another country, teaching a class and I have never spoken in public. I used to stutter, I was fearful, never ever spoken in public and I get this job at that age in this country. And like a sheep put among the wolves I am given the senior most class, the dhadhas sitting

over there, many of them older than me and I have to teach Shakespeare. I am a rookie, do you know what happens to students in the senior most class? Their tails are out and they act up and they act up on the newest and the youngest teacher. You enter the class, the dhadhas don't even get up and I used to go there. I was very young, a new believer, Good News Bible and God's Underground. You see God knew where I would end up finally so He started with me from the underground. Richard Wurmbrand's God's Underground. Go ahead buy it and read. These are my daily meditations. Martin Lloyd Jones, Watchman Nee and Richard Wurmbrand. And I am asking, 'Lord! Help me Lord, help me.' It was not that I could realise that I could teach, but the problem is not teaching; it is controlling your students. And I still remember when it broke through, it was on one afternoon, the class after lunch; the worst period any teacher wants. They have eaten till their gills, it is coming out of their nostrils and by the time you reach the classroom everybody is drowsy. The dhadhas are all sitting at the back, everybody is sleeping because they know that the rookie is coming. Few girls just smile at me and shake their heads, because they were told very strictly by the dhadhas, 'Don't wake us up.' That was the day I realized that you could work under an anointing.

I just trusted God and I put my text down. Without the text I started teaching Shakespeare and I could feel something come upon me. Literally feel something come upon me and I started teaching Shakespeare. Do you know what happened? One by one they all started waking up. By the time I finished the whole class was awake, leaning forward and listening intently. After that day I had no trouble with my students. It is because the anointing breaks the yoke, lifts the burden. But the problem is that, after that day, other problem started; the other students from other classes went and complaint to the administration, 'we want Sir James to teach us.' And I didn't know this commotion was happening in the administration and one day when I was teaching I felt something different and asked, 'Is somebody outside my classroom?' when I go out and I look, I see the principal and 2-3 other lecturers standing outside and listening to me teach. And I am a rookie. They did not understand the difference; they did not know what an anointing means. And I have experienced this, every time in the secular realm and in the sacred realm. There is something called the anointing which God gives you. You have the Spirit of God inside of you and He gives you an anointing and He is not going to do that until you understand the fundamentals.

The fundamental is Koinonia. We have been brought together for a purpose; the Gospel. I could be the only lecturer in that country who in all those years, without preaching the Gospel, preached the Gospel through Shakespeare and baptized his students, because I never forgot what I was there for. I have worked as an editor here, on my right side is Revathi from JNU and the other one's name I forgot, she was from HCU and I am from IEFUL, I am telling you, by the time I left they all knew Christ. There was no way you could hide it. Because this is what it was all about; your life was all about Him. We have been united by the Gospel and the purpose is the Gospel and *Matthew 24:14* says,

Matthew 24:14

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

That is our purpose; we want the end to come, the reign of Christ to begin and therefore we are inflamed by the Gospel. We have to pass it on, 'Lord, make me a witness. Make me a witness. Because I know that if I do my part, in Your universal body of Christ I can do one thing, as Peter said, I can hasten Your coming.' Then all your grieves, your sorrows, your miseries, everything is over. It is over. Everyone who say, 'How long Lord?' to them God says, 'Be the Gospel, the end will come.' That is the end. And then, only one thing God demands, the church takes the Gospel as a witness. It doesn't say that they are all saved, but as a witness everybody should hear the Gospel at least once. As a witness. When you go to your workplace, you ask God and God will give you ideas. To be a witness. Because this is Koinonia. You have fellowship with the Father and the Son and the desire of the Father sent the Son so that through His death He would birth other sons and daughter. So you cannot miss that passion.

And in a country where proselytization is forbidden and if I was caught I would go into prison and I had to give an undertaking that I would not proselytize anybody, God's Spirit can show you different ways. I shared that last week. I told my class, 'Everything for you is done by the government, by the college, you live on

freedom and entitlement mentality. What have you given back to your institution?' they never heard anything like that. I said, 'Don't you know that it is more blessed to give than to receive?' isn't that the Gospel? They said, 'Sir, we never knew.' I said, 'We will do one thing. (those were the times when there was no cell phone and anything of that sort in those days. You just had a phone with the wire) I said, 'Do you see our principal every time he goes on rounds, when the phone rings he has to run to the office to take the call? Let's plan a surprise. We will put in money for a month and then we will buy him a phone and we will give it to him. And you, class leader, when you have to speak in the assembly you should thank the king, thank the government, thank the college, thank the administration and say, 'You have blessed us so much and now we want to be a blessing and then give it. And as a token, I have brought this box for collection and I am putting this first 500 rupee note.' They were tickled-pink and by the end of the month we had money to buy the phone and that kid who has no clue what the Gospel is, who Jesus is, stood there and gave the Gospel, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And he gave the gift to the principal. He took it to his office and opened it and he came to me and says, 'Sir James, it must be you. Nothing like this has ever happened in our college.'

If you believe, if you ask, God will give you a thousand different ways. The only thing that you need to realize is that this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached. Fellowship, the local assembly the Church is the microcosm of the future. This life we are called to share together is the picture of a life we will share there. No misunderstanding, no envy, no jealousy, all that has to be handled here, because there none of these things will be there. This (Earth) is a place of preparation for a prepared place (Heaven). In this place a people are being prepared. In *2 Corinthians 5:17* God says – *If any man is in Christ Jesus He is a new Creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.* What is new? You and me. Everything else is old. But in *Revelation 21* God says – *all things have passed away, behold all things are new.* The old Creation passed away, behold there is a new creation for a set of new creation. So we are being prepared. And where are we being prepared? What is God's pressure cooker? What is God's kadai? It is the Koinonia.

And all the Epistles are basically rules of fellowship. Don't lie to one another, don't envy, don't be angry, don't do this thing, work so that you can give. Can you imagine in Ephesians the Bible says – those who stole should not steal anymore, instead you should work with your hands so that he can give to those who need. The concept about work has also changed, it is Koinonia. Did you ever think about how radical the Gospel is? Like I said, before Pentecost there was nothing like this in human history. Never. Israel had its festivals thrice a year and most Christians gather in Church thrice a year – Good Friday, Easter, Christmas. You could go to many churches in the city, sit there for 20 years and never know anybody. See the performance, the program and come back. I am not blaming them, but if you look at them, many of the churches have small cell-groups but it is up to you to be part of that cell-group. But most people don't.

Acts 2:46

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Where did they gather in the morning? In the temple. But where did they break bread? In the house. They broke bread from house to house. A set of people brought together by the Spirit of God. And they broke bread. We are not talking about communion. Why is it called a 'communion'? a holy communion. People who take communion have no communion with one another. They are just partaking in communion but they have no communion; they are not communicating with one another. Why is it called communion? Have you asked this question? Why is it called communion? What is communion? Koinonia. Fellowship. By the Spirit.

1 John 1:1-4

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— do you know that you are hearing the Word of life? This is not seven principles of how to get promotion in your office. And three steps to getting married. No. This is the Word of Life. In the Kingdom all these other things are not priorities. Priority is God. Priority is surrender to Christ.

Yesterday I could ask one man in one country to hand your church over to the next one and go to another country because I need you there. And he is putting his life at risk and he packed and left and he has already

reached. Can I tell you that? 'There is a crisis in this country. I need you to go from here and I need you to go there,' and he left. These are not simple people. These are Koinonia people. Are you surrendered? Do you understand what the body of Christ is? There are people in my churches who haven't still got married, because they have said, 'We will not marry until you release us.' I said, 'Your time hasn't come yet.' Boy is waiting, girl is waiting. I said, 'Not yet, because the Kingdom is bigger than your marriage, wait!' I don't get people like you. To get people like you, to birth people like you it takes ages. Wait!

Now I am not saying that you should do all that. It is in your hands. First is, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice. It is not a program; this is not a performance. This is a life. The life of Christ. It is about the Kingdom.

² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; what is the result of fellowship? They share in the life of God. That is the result, 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.

And what is the basis? Verse 5-7,

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. So you need to realise, what is repentance all about? Why do we repent? What is the whole purpose? Do not repent for repentance sake. Repent for the sake of fellowship with God. If you don't know what is the purpose, people will just ignore, 'Ah! It's okay. Pastor said repent, it doesn't matter.' No that is not the reason for repentance, repentance is so that we can fellowship with God. Because God cannot fellowship with sin. He can fellowship with the sinner if the sinner is willing to deal with the sin, God is willing. God never changes, he is always loving, always merciful, always kind and always true. You see the prodigal son went further and further away and then fell headlong into the pig pen. The father never moved, he always was the same. When the son came back, he had lost everything, probably was stinking like the pigs, smelling and he came with this long prepared speech, but the father fell on his neck, hugged and kissed him. And covered him. Why was fellowship restored? It is because he just dealt with his sin. The minute he dealt with his sin through repentance, he cannot change anything, he cannot work and bring that money back, he can't do anything. All he can do is say, 'Father I am sorry.' That is all. And the father's fellowship was restored. **⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Now it is not just fellowship with Him, it is fellowship with one another. Let me give you an illustration: Abigail, this little girl is standing a few step away from me. Now because there is light when I am walking I can see and walk across without hurting her. But if there is no light, and it is darkness, I can't see and she can't see and we bump into each other. Do you know why people do not have fellowship with one another? It is because they are walking in darkness. If you walk in light you have fellowship with God and you have fellowship with one another. Koinonia works, the condition is light. 'Oh I don't like that one. I don't like this one. I don't like to talk to that one. I remember what he said 20 years ago, what she said 15 years ago.' You are walking in darkness. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Koinonia is the proof of life. That is the proof. Are you alive? Or are you dead? What is the proof?

Verse 8 and 9,

1 John 1:8-9

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

He is faithful, He is always faithful. And the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness. And do you know what happens, in the home, in the church? Everywhere? Because the church is full of homes and the trouble begins at home. Whole trouble began in a home; Adam and Eve's home. It started in a home and then the virus spread through the world. You need to have Koinonia. Husbands and wives need to have Koinonia. Parents and children need to have Koinonia. We need to walk in the light. You cannot have

compromised Koinonia, but you need to have Koinonia. Otherwise it will not work. Because we are the only evidence God has left on planet earth that Christ is real. *By this the world will know.* By how? *Because you love one another.* It is not a song, it is a life. We know that song, do we know that life?

There is an issue in the church of Corinth, a serious issue,

1 Corinthians 5:11-13

¹¹ ***But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.*** See, everywhere eat comes. Have you noticed? Eating comes there. Because eating is a sign of fellowship. Do you know, our children, little ones, when they are upset because you scolded them, they will take their plate and go to the corner and sit sulking, “I’m not talking to you.” See, at the dining table everything is revealed. That is why it is called the Lord’s supper. The revelation is at the dining table.

¹² ***For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?*** ¹³ ***But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”***

Now this is a very serious issue. What is the principle? What is the greatest punishment given in the Church? You know what, Koinonia was broken with that person. Does it bother you? Do you know what was the only punishment given inside the church? Koinonia is broken – don’t eat with him. And he is a miserable man, that man is so miserable he repents and comes back because all he wants is Koinonia. What happens to this man? He is a brother, he is cut away from the life of God, on earth. And he is like stranded in an Island, doesn’t know what to do and he turns and comes back. Do you understand what God is saying? Do you understand the seriousness of it? That is why it is called the Lord’s Table. That is why it is called the communion. This table which God is talking about is life. Look at the final Passover.

John 13:12-17

¹² ***So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”*** What did He do after the supper? He is giving His final session. We walked together, we lived together, we prayed together, we ministered together, now our final meal together, but do you understand what I was doing? I want you to learn the primary lesson of shared life. What did He do? He washed their feet. Then He asks this question – Do you understand what I am trying to do? ¹³ ***You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.*** ¹⁴ ***If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.*** He says, in Koinonia everyone serves the other and I am showing you a way. This is not a program; this is not a performance. This is a shared life. I have shown you a way. ¹⁵ ***For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*** So churches made a program before easter, from the Pope downwards, ‘Get 5 people, first ask them to wash their feet properly and come.’ Then they will record themselves washing their feet and put it on TV programs. That is not Koinonia; that is a performance. What is Koinonia? You don’t have to wash anybody’s feet, unless they require their feet to be washed and you have the capacity and they don’t, then you do it. But primarily in the Body of Christ every one serves one another. That is why the Church is called a Body with many parts. And every part is serving the other. That is Koinonia. ¹⁶ ***Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.*** ¹⁷ ***If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*** ¹⁸ ***“I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’***

He says, there is one among you who does not share this life, even though he has been with us. He will break Koinonia. That is Judas, he will break Koinonia. And that is what people do; they break koinonia. The Bible talks about these things. He says, if you have an issue in the church, settle it in the church. How can you take an issue in the church, with a brother, to a gentile court? Settle it in the church, you are breaking the principle of koinonia. This is a shared life. Whatever you and I do, what we touch is the Spirit of God; the life of God. In *Psalms 55:12-13* Jesus is actually quoting David,

Psalm 55:12-13

¹²For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. ¹³But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. ¹⁴We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.

It is you who turned against me. You broke Koinonia. Who is David talking about? He is talking about Ahithophel. He said, 'All these years I have walked with you, and listened to you and asked my doubts and took your counsel. I led my administration with you and then one day you turned against me and you are plotting to destroy me. What happened to you? Koinonia.' Jesus is saying the same thing, "You, one among you, will betray Me." It happens in homes, it happens in churches. Only two places where Koinonia takes places. Office and work is a different thing; we are a witness. But Koinonia is at home, in the believer's home and in the believer's church. It is a different life all together.

Philippians 2:1-4

¹Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. How can we be like-minded? We receive the same Spirit, but we also need to receive the same Word. That is what I said – it is not that you should not listen to others; you should listen to others after you listen to what has been fed in your own home. Otherwise we will not be like-minded. You cannot be like-minded because everybody is hearing different things, how can you have the same mind? The Apostolic church had the same mind because everybody heard the same doctrine. You can judge doctrine, whether it is true or false. But if it is true then listen to it, so that you can be of the same mind. That is what the Bible is saying – having the same love. Not different love. I love that one, this one I don't. No. We have the same love. Where does this all come from? It comes from the Spirit and from the doctrine. ***And being of one accord, of one mind.***

³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Don't do that, he says. That is what Ananias and Saphira did and they just died. Today people don't fall and die in the church, they die slowly. They don't realise it when it is happening but they die slowly. See, like I said, there was strife between Abraham and Lot, next thing they separate. Lot separates from the spiritual man, he thought, 'What a fool, he gave me first choice.' He took it and he went, he looked, he saw, he left. 20 years later he is finished. Some of the choices you make will not be seen now. Wait for 10 years. Wait for 15 years and you will see that you are destroyed. And you trace back to see where you were destroyed and you will see that you walked away from fellowship, from the spiritual; from Koinonia. The day Lot separated from Abraham, he was nailing his coffin. That is how it works. And we don't have to make mistakes. The Spirit of God is there and He says, 'I will guide you, I will help you.' You have to think that way. This world holds us nothing. We are Koinonia, the body of Christ. And our purpose is unity in the Gospel. It is not other things. Other things have been guaranteed, you put this first and these things I will give it to you. If you have food on your table and clothes on your back you should be content, not even a roof is promised. Why is not a roof promised? It is because God may tell you, 'Now I want you to move there because I need you there.' That is why Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, who were the inheritors of that land lived like sojourners in tents, while Lot built a house. When fire came his house was gone, while Abraham kept on moving his tent and building altars.

There is no confusion in the Kingdom, you hear from God. We share a life. And then when God moves you and you are moved that life is never broken. I have seen people who have left the church and left he fellowship and their life broken. And people who have moved and the fellowship is still never broken, they could be at the other end of the world, and gone 10-12 years ago, the fellowship is never broken because they have understood the principle of Koinonia, 'I will not break the Spirit of Christ.' They are faithful where there are, but they know that we are one. Koinonia, we need to understand.

⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Epistles are all written to the church, koinonia, a fellowship; a set of people who are set apart, living a common shared life. First with God and then with one another. Remember David? Once he sinned he was an utterly miserable man. Why? Fellowship was broken. He is somebody who knew that fellowship was broken. That is why in his prayer, in *Psalm 51*, it is all about his sins and then finally he says one thing which is the core of *Psalm 51* – *do not take Your Holy Spirit from me*. I cannot live, I cannot live without it. Please take the crown, take the throne, take everything, but don't take the Holy Spirit; don't break fellowship with me.

You know what Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, the Baptist pastor who was hung by Hitler?

“He who is alone with his sins is utterly alone.”

God says, ‘You don't have to be alone with your sins, just give it to Me.’ Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. And that is why even in home you have to guard yourself from jealousy, envy everything. You know husbands can be jealous of wives, especially these days because the wives are all well-educated and bring better salaries than men. No. There is no room for these things in the house of God. I have seen it, I am telling you something which I have seen as a servant of God, in home, for years. I sit there and listen to it and I realise, you know what, the problem is just jealousy. This man is jealous about his wife, who is supposed to be one with him.

Why did Cain kill Abel? Jealousy.

Genesis 4:9

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

Again God is coming and asking, fellowship has been irrevocably broken here. Where is your brother? What did you do? Koinonia is gone. You have killed him. It never can be restored. What did you do? Did he listen to God? No. Look at verse 16 and 17,

Genesis 4:16-17

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. I always say, remember we are in the east. People always go to the east. Going east means going away from God. Lot also went east. Cain also went east. **¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.**

You see, people who go away and break fellowship with God and man and go further away, they build great things because they are empty inside. ‘I pursued this under the sun,’ ‘I pursued that under the sun,’ ‘I built this,’ and ‘I built that,’ why? It is because you are empty. Like Solomon. All this building and success is not going to make any difference because you have tasted Koinonia; the life of God. Nothing can replace it. Miserably they will wander and they will build things and at the end of life they will have one proverb to give, ‘Fear God and do His commandments. That is the whole duty of man.’ Dude, you are already finished. Don't you know what the life of God is? It doesn't work any other way.

Acts 15:36-41

³⁶ Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” Paul is like, ‘Lord, let's go back.’ You need to go on mission rounds. All the places where I have gone before. When I go back, the first thing I look for is, not to preach, but I look for people, I ask the pastor, “That one is missing. Where did this one go? Where is your worship leader, last time I came here he was really good.” The pastor says, “Oh, he, he fell away.” And this one? ‘Oh, this one is still there. When I came 1 year back you were there. When I came 3 years back you were there. When I came 4 years back you were there. And now you are still there.’ What are you looking for? Those who have understood the principle of Koinonia and are rooted and are a blessing in their church. That is what it is talking about. **³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with**

them John called Mark. That's his nephew. ³⁸ **But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.** He said, 'No. this is a young man. He is young. Give him time. He has broken Koinonia. You cannot trust him. So let him grow, let him mature. Let him stay back. We do not want him. I know he is your Nephew, but blood relationship does not matter in the Spirit. Yes, blood is thicker than water but Spirit is stronger than blood.' ³⁹ **Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;** ⁴⁰ **but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.** ⁴¹ **And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.**

After that, you read the Bible, you will not see Barnabas. Barnabas is gone. Over a relationship he broke Koinonia. Paul took Silas and he departed. Who was commended? **being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.** Paul is commended. Barnabas was a senior man, he was a senior apostle. The one who mentored Paul. But the brethren, who are walking under the Spirit are not commending Barnabas, who is going to Cyprus. They are commending Paul because Barnabas has broken Koinonia. Whom did Paul take? Silas. Do you know what will happen next?

There is a prayer meeting, they come, there is deliverance and a little later,

Acts 16:23-25

²³ **And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.** ²⁴ **Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.** ²⁵ **But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

The most powerful Koinonia you will ever read in the book of Acts; two people chained together for the Gospel, they are praying and singing and, everybody was listening. It is because they have never seen the life of God being manifested like this before. What was manifesting was the life of Christ. Where does your doctrine come from? That is what I write to all of my churches. Last week also, 'Daddy this one died, that one died.' I said, 'Sing!' grieve for the person who is gone, but sing because they have lived well and died well. Sing! What is written? Sing! If you are persecuted for righteousness sake rejoice and be exceedingly glad. The Apostles went out rejoicing because they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus Christ. Doctrine doesn't change. This is the doctrine of Christ – Sing! And they were singing. The Bible says, **suddenly there was an earthquake.** The power of God comes in because this is Koinonia; the life of God being lived out in the midst of gentiles. I even told last night, God even picked the spot, they were put in the inner prison so that when they sang the while nine-yards, everybody would hear and they were listening. They had never seen anything like this. That is the life of God.

This is not religion, these are not programs, this is a shared life, two people chained together. If you go to verse 25, do you know how it should have been written? 'at midnight hour, Paul and Barnabas were praying and singing' that would have been an eternal history. Instead it is written – **Paul and Silas.** Do you know why Barnabas is not there? It is because he broke Koinonia. Get these pictures very, very clear. Get these pictures. This is how it works. The world has all these programs. Disparate groups, different tastes they all will come together. They come together on a shared interest – football lovers, music lovers, arts lovers, poetry reading club. You know everything is there and they think it is fellowship. It is not. It is not fellowship; they never share in each other's troubles. They don't share a life. But here what is happening on the day of Pentecost is people who did not know each other, people who were from different strata of society, different job profiles, all went into the water and came out as one. And when you read how they lived, you need to realise and pray, 'Lord, restore.' Somebody wrote asking for restoration. Do you know what restoration you need to ask for? 'Lord, restore Koinonia.' That is how the church lived and that is the only way the church is called to live. Restore Lord. Restore.

John 21:1-3

¹**After these things** (this is post resurrection. *After these things...* Jesus taught and taught and taught. After resurrection also He was teaching through the Holy Spirit, read Acts 1,2. Everything He does is through the Holy Spirit because that is the only way Koinonia can be established. Even Jesus Himself, post-resurrection, doesn't teach a word to His disciples other than through the Holy Spirit, because it is One life. He breathed upon them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit and then through the Holy Spirit teaches to those who have received the Holy Spirit so they can share one life; the life of the Father. There are no two lives. Only one life. That is why you have to watch your homes. You cannot have competition between a husband and a wife; they have to be one. I mean, when homes come together as one, they come to church, the church becomes one. One mind, one faith, one Spirit. Because it is a shared life. **Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:**² **Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.** ³ **Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.** Why? It is because they broke Koinonia. Jesus had told them something else and they are going fishing. Fellowship is with the Son, first and then with one another. 'Oh! We will go fishing.' But God said something else, so Koinonia is not going to work. You broke Koinonia, you broke the life of Christ, so whole night they fished and they caught nothing.

John 21:4-5

⁴ **But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.** ⁵ **Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"**

He will bring food over there, because Koinonia is usually established over food. We have fellowship lunch, fellowship dinner. What is the lunch there for? It is fellowship lunch. It is Koinonia. We share the same meal. So He asked this question, 'Children, have you any food? They answered Him, 'No.' these disciples, have you noticed? They never carry food.

John 21:6

⁶ **And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.** ⁷ **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.** ⁸ **But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.** ⁹ **Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.**

Do you know, while they were fishing, He was making breakfast for them? 'We shall have a good time of Koinonia. You are discouraged, you are depressed, but if we have to share that life you have to listen to what I AM saying. And we shall have a talk over breakfast.

¹⁰ **Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."**

¹¹ **Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.** ¹² **Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord.** ¹³ **Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.**

¹⁴ **This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.**

So after they finished eating nicely, He asked the leader, Mr. Peter, after they had a meal, nice fellowship, Koinonia, He asked him, 'Peter, do you love Me? Do you love Me more than these? Do you love Me?'

¹⁵ **So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"**

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ **He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"**

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

Are you getting the point? It was always about life. It was always about love. It was always about a shared life. And the question He still asks is – Do you love Me? No condemnation, no shouting, no screaming, nothing. He fed them nicely.

That is a good time, eat a heavy breakfast, or after dinner, whatever your time in different homes, after you have eaten full and your belly is full, sit down and talk. Have Koinonia. These are the pillars on which a home or a church is built. First is doctrine. If you don't have doctrine your meals are waste. It is a waste of money and a waste of appetite. But if your doctrine is right it does not matter what you eat. If the doctrine is wrong it matters what you eat, because your focus will be on the food. It was just bread and fish, nothing else.

Fellowship meals doesn't have to be 5-course. That is the problem, the problem is that we think 5-course. So if I have to call that one, or give that one, I have to cook so much. No. You just find out somebody who is in need, that brother, or that sister, it's okay, just some rice, dal and one sabji is enough. But the fact is that you have reached out in Koinonia, 'I care' or maybe some other meal. Whatever it is, you know, you heard in your prayer, whatever and you come and say, 'Let me help.' That is what *Acts 2:42 onwards* it says – *those who had sold it and put it at the Apostles' feet and they gave to those who did not have and nobody lacked.* What was happening? They were living a shared life. What a life!

It is a shared life and they came through. They came through. Everyone has something to give. That is why Moses the question – what is in your hand? That is the only thing he had, everything else belonged to Zipporah. Shoes were her father's, pants were her father's, shirt was hers, he had nothing after 40 years. Only a stick he brought from Egypt. God said, 'That is enough. With that stick I will bring My people out.'

If you are willing to use what you have you can bring somebody out. That is how Koinonia works. And the Spirit of God is always hovering around to look who is there. Who is there who understands the Spirit of Life. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, He came to serve. And that was His final lesson for His disciples before His death. What did He do? Washed their feet. And what did He do as His final lesson before His ascension? He cooked for them. Jesus never changes, He is still the same. He never changes, before resurrection and post resurrection He is still serving. He is not just a King; He is a Servant King. There are kings and queens here, very few servants. Don't break Koinonia. That is the life of God.

Acts 2:42 onwards the life of God begins. Never has it been replicated anywhere. It is impossible to replicate it, because to have it you need the Spirit of God; He needs to be Lord. And God will not allow that to be broken. Where it is broken He just withdraws. What do we have left? A program. What do we have? A performance. Where the Spirit of God is not there it is just a program. It is a performance.

So this morning, we will stand up, it is a personal thing, one-on-one with God; first fellowship with God and then fellowship with one another. Don't be Cain. 'Where is your brother?' 'I don't know! Am I my brother's keeper?' we are our brother's keeper, all of us. Put the Kingdom first and see how God will start changing things. And the Bible says that when they lived like that God did amazing miracles in their midst. They didn't have to do anything, miracles were just naturally happening. Do you know why? It is because the life of God was following through Koinonia. Where the life of God flows miracles flow. Because the life of God is not and cannot be a natural life, it is always a super-natural life. It is not a natural life. If is a natural life it is my life. If it is super-natural life then it is God's life.

Surrender! Nobody has lost by surrendering to God. So this morning, on your own say, 'Lord, I surrender to fellowship. Fellowship with God and fellowship with man. We are one, we are not many. Many yes, but one. Spirit of God lead me. Show me what You want me to do. I am here.'

Closing prayer:

Father this morning, we come to You Lord. We just want to thank You, we just want to praise You, we just want to worship You Lord. For You are raising a generation. Everybody wants Elisha's anointing, but they don't want Elisha's life. The only thing that was known about Elisha for 18 years was – this was the man who poured water on Elijah's hands. They want that double portion of anointing without his life. There is an anointing that You have reserved in these last days – 'I shall pour out My Spirit upon all flesh in the last days' is what You said. Old men, old women, young and old, upon everyone, You said, but it will be a Koinonia people. A people who have set themselves apart from the world and set themselves apart for one another. It is an Ecclesia who understands the meaning of Koinonia. And there will be a power that will be released by God upon your lives. Increasing measure. And signs will follow you, you will speak in other tongues, you will cast out demons, when you lay hands upon the sick they will be healed. Even if you partake of poison it will not harm you. You will handle snakes and scorpions because the life of God that is in you will be flowing out. But the principle is Koinonia.

Commit yourself to fellowship; a shared life with God and with the Body of Christ. No other life will God accept in the Church.

This morning Father, as individuals and as a Church, with all those listening around the world, we surrender ourselves. Thy will be done in our midst. Thy name be hallowed, Thy Kingdom come so that one day we can stand and say, 'Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, and all God's people said Amen, amen and amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and above all the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide in each one of us. Amen.

Now go and fellowship. Not gossip, but fellowship.

