

1 PAUL, A PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS, AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER, TO PHILEMON OUR DEAR FRIEND AND FELLOW WORKER— 2 ALSO TO APPHIA OUR SISTER AND ARCHIPPUS OUR FELLOW SOLDIER—AND TO THE CHURCH THAT MEETS IN YOUR HOME: 3 GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU^[A] FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

4 I ALWAYS THANK MY GOD AS I REMEMBER YOU IN MY PRAYERS, 5 BECAUSE I HEAR ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOR ALL HIS HOLY PEOPLE AND YOUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS. 6 I PRAY THAT YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH US IN THE FAITH MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN DEEPENING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF EVERY GOOD THING WE SHARE FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST. 7 YOUR LOVE HAS GIVEN ME GREAT JOY AND ENCOURAGEMENT, BECAUSE YOU, BROTHER, HAVE REFRESHED THE HEARTS OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

PAUL'S PLEA FOR ONESIMUS

8 THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH IN CHRIST I COULD BE BOLD AND ORDER YOU TO DO WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO, 9 YET I PREFER TO APPEAL TO YOU ON THE BASIS OF LOVE. IT IS AS NONE OTHER THAN PAUL—AN OLD MAN AND NOW ALSO A PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS— 10 THAT I APPEAL TO YOU FOR MY SON ONESIMUS,^[B] WHO BECAME MY SON WHILE I WAS IN CHAINS. 11 FORMERLY HE WAS USELESS TO YOU, BUT NOW HE HAS BECOME USEFUL BOTH TO YOU AND TO ME.

12 I AM SENDING HIM—WHO IS MY VERY HEART—BACK TO YOU. 13 I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO KEEP HIM WITH ME SO THAT HE COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE IN HELPING ME WHILE I AM IN CHAINS FOR THE GOSPEL. 14 BUT I DID NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, SO THAT ANY FAVOR YOU DO WOULD NOT SEEM FORCED BUT WOULD BE VOLUNTARY. 15 PERHAPS THE REASON HE WAS SEPARATED FROM YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE WAS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE HIM BACK FOREVER— 16 NO LONGER AS A SLAVE, BUT BETTER THAN A SLAVE, AS A DEAR BROTHER. HE IS VERY DEAR TO ME BUT EVEN DEARER TO YOU, BOTH AS A FELLOW MAN AND AS A BROTHER IN THE LORD.

17 SO IF YOU CONSIDER ME A PARTNER, WELCOME HIM AS YOU WOULD WELCOME ME. 18 IF HE HAS DONE YOU ANY WRONG OR OWES YOU ANYTHING, CHARGE IT TO ME. 19 I, PAUL, AM WRITING THIS WITH MY OWN HAND. I WILL PAY IT BACK—NOT TO MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SELF. 20 I DO WISH, BROTHER, THAT I MAY HAVE SOME BENEFIT FROM YOU IN THE LORD; REFRESH MY HEART IN CHRIST. 21 CONFIDENT OF YOUR OBEDIENCE, I WRITE TO YOU, KNOWING THAT YOU WILL DO EVEN MORE THAN I ASK.

22 AND ONE THING MORE: PREPARE A GUEST ROOM FOR ME, BECAUSE I HOPE TO BE RESTORED TO YOU IN ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS.

23 EPAPHRAS, MY FELLOW PRISONER IN CHRIST JESUS, SENDS YOU GREETINGS. 24 AND SO DO MARK, ARISTARCHUS, DEMAS AND LUKE, MY FELLOW WORKERS.

25 THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

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PAUL'S PLEA FOR ONESIMUS

8 THERE IS ONE WHO SHOULD BE IN YOUR HANDS, BUT SINCE I WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU, I AM WRITING YOU THIS LETTER. 9 YET I PREFER TO SEND HIM TO YOU, SINCE HE IS OF YOUR FAMILIARITY. 10 NONE OF US WOULD WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER MAN'S SERVANT WITHOUT HIS MASTER'S CONSENT. 11 NOW THAT YOU HAVE GOTTEN HIM BACK, PLEASE SEND HIM TO ME. 12 I AM WRITING YOU THIS LETTER AS A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR HIM. 13 I AM SURE YOU WILL LIKE HIM, SINCE HE HAS BEEN WITH ME SO LONG. 14 I DID NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, SO THAT I WOULD NOT BE LIKE A THIEF. 15 PERHAPS HE HAS BEEN USEFUL TO YOU IN SOME WAY. 16 PLEASE SEND HIM TO ME AS A SERVANT, BUT BETTER THAN A SLAVE, SINCE HE IS MY SON AND TO YOU A DEAR BROTHER. HE IS VERY DEAR TO ME BUT EVEN DEARER TO YOU, BOTH AS A FELLOW MAN AND AS A BROTHER IN THE LORD.

PHILEMON

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PHILEMON

the transformative power of the gospel

PHILEMON

A personal appeal for

the transformative power of the gospel

in our relationships.

PHILEMON

Big Ideas...

Radical forgiveness and reconciliation.

Equality and Christian brotherhood.

Love over coercion.

Partnership and fellowship.

Transformation of purpose.

Vision of a 'new humanity'.

Philemon 1-3

- ¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker
- ² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier,
and the church in your house:
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILEMON

To work out the gospel-driven relational changes on the outside, we must develop a gospel-formed heart on the inside.

PHILEMON

*What are marks of a
gospel-formed heart?*

Philemon 4-7

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward
the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for
the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us
for the sake of Christ.

7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Philemon 4-7

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

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**Develop a heart of thankfulness
and remembrance**

Philemon 4-7

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Develop a heart of honor

Philemon 4-7

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Develop a heart for restored relationships

Philemon 4-7

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,
5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward
the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,
6 and I pray that the **koinōnia of your faith** may become effective for
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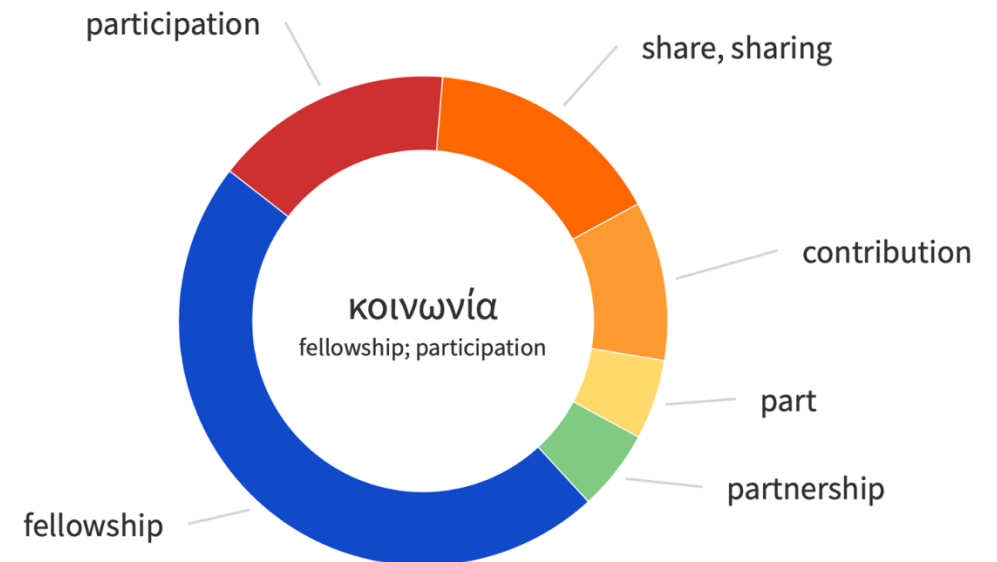
“Sharing” – koinōnia

Philemon 4-7

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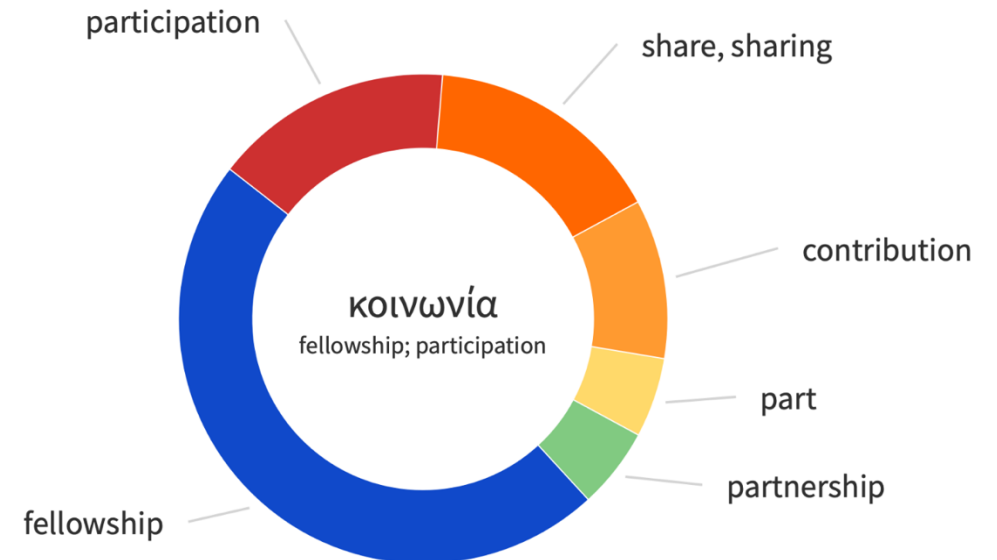


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**Paul prays for the fellowship
and participation of faith to
become effective**



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“Sharing” – koinōnia
Paul prays for the fellowship
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**Faith is never a private, isolated
part of life. Your faith binds you
in partnership to every believer,
with privilege and responsibility.**

Philemon 4-7

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7 *“Paul seeks the specifically Christian virtue of loving forgiveness, which will demand humility from both parties—Onesimus to seek forgiveness, Philemon to grant it. Onesimus must abandon fear: Philemon, pride. And the thing which will induce both parties to do this is a theological fact, namely the fellowship (koinōnia) which belongs to the people of Christ.”*

- N. T. Wright

Philemon 4-7

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Develop a heart for restored relationships

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7

Colossians 1

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

ou.

Philemon 4-7

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7

Philippians 1

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

ou.

Philemon 4-7

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the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,
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for the sake of Christ.

Ephesians 1

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Philemon 4-7

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Develop a heart of joy

Philemon 4-7

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Philemon 20

²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord.
Refresh my heart in Christ.

Philemon 4-7

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7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love,
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brother

PHILEMON

To work out the gospel-driven relational changes on the outside, we must develop a gospel-formed heart on the inside.

So....therefore....what now?

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Cultivate a gospel-formed heart

So....therefore....what now?

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Live out gospel-shaped relationships

So....therefore....what now?

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Live out gospel-shaped relationships

Be a refresher, not a drainer

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