Experiencing Effective Koinonia (Fellowship)

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Exodus 19, Acts 2:42-47, Proverbs 22:6

Review…

Fellowship is *koinonia*. Koinonia depicts an interactive relationship between God and believers who are sharing new life through Christ. The Greek word captures the entirety of this relationship. It involves active participation in Christian community, sharing in spiritual blessings, and giving material blessings.

A few weeks ago, we talked about how to use koinonia as an action step to defeat unbelief and increase faith. Today, we are going to learn how to experience effective fellowship; meaning fellowship as Scripture defines it through the word koinonia.

The most important thing to grasp about koinonia is that Jesus is the central figure. Our goal should be to meet with Him, first. If we fellowship first for ourselves, for our own benefit, we have missed the point. However, when we keep Jesus central and meet with Him first…we can experience fellowship that is life changing and that impacts the Kingdom of God in a positive way.

Here are 3 things we can do to experience effective koinonia:

1. **Preparation**
   1. *Exodus 19* - How did the Israelites prepare to fellowship with God?
      1. Holiness: The washing of the clothes
      2. Fear of the Lord: The barrier around the mountain
      3. Obedience: Following all of Moses’ (God’s) instructions
2. **Participation**
   1. *Acts 2:42-47* - What is our New Testament example of koinonia?
      1. Show up: You gotta be there to participate
      2. Give: God’s design for koinonia in His Church doesn’t work without everyone participating in giving money to support the work of the local church.
      3. Receive: Of course, koinonia isn’t complete without receiving from the Lord, and from other family members in the body of Christ.
3. **Preservation**
   1. *Proverbs 22:6* - How can we create a culture of koinonia?
      1. We must create koinonia culture in our families and in RITH if we want this to be passed to the next generation in a discipleship manner.
      2. Creating a lifestyle of koinonia will protect us from regressing to isolation and indifference.
      3. Our kids, our brothers and sisters around us, and even non-believers see the level of importance we place on church, fellowship, giving, loving, participating, etc. More is caught than taught.