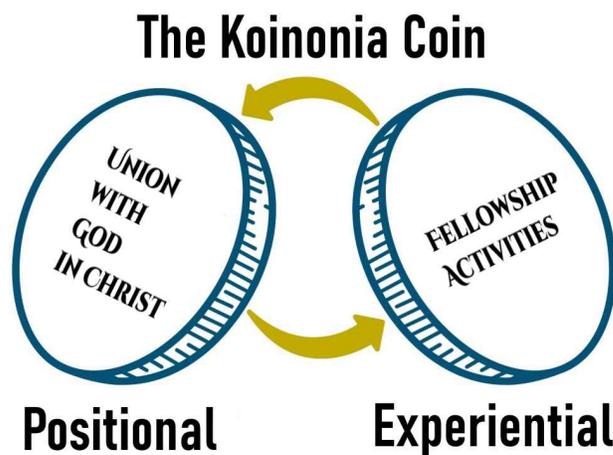


## 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

1. In the New Testament, believers can have fellowship and share together their lives and ministries and their joint expectations of forever, because they first of all have and share a saving, vivifying *relationship* with Christ and share Him in common (1 Cor. 1:9)
2. Fellowship, then, begins in the shared-together, common spiritual life with other believers through right relationship with God secured through Jesus Christ by faith, and given its life by the indwelling living Holy Spirit. This is *a one-body union with God in Christ*. Christian Koinonia/fellowship then starts first and foremost as *an objective triune-God-rooted relationship, a union*, rather than an *activity*.
3. The principle is that any genuine *fellowship activity* that follows, comes out of and is given life from that shared living relationship. Fellowship activity in return then *magnifies the glory, displays the reality, and fuels our enjoyment* of our union with God in Christ. Phil 1:27

If we think about the foundation for fellowship as a coin, we will see that our joint life in Christ is like a coin, it has two sides, *union* and *communion*, [*relationship*] (**the positional side**) and *fellowship* (**the experiential side**).



We see this beautifully brought together (position and experience), in 2 Corinthians 13:14, “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*”

## Fellowship as *Companionship on The Way*

Companionship is the communication (*communion*) that exists among companions on *The Way*, those associated together through the positional relationship they hold in common trust. Key words that describe companionship are “interchange, communion, sharing.” Communication is the sharing of concepts, feelings, ideas, information, needs, etc. through words or other symbols like body language and actions so that all members of the relationship hold these things in common as they proceed on *The Way*.

In the Christian community, companionship includes communicating on a spiritual level through a mutual sharing of the things of Christ: *the Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the ministries and gifts of the various members of the body of Christ.*

What is *The Way*? Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22



### Companionship through communication would include:

- (1) **The Vertical:** This is our communion and fellowship with the Lord through the *Word, prayer, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the abiding life (walking in the Spirit).*
- (2) **The Horizontal:** This is our communion and fellowship with the body of Christ, other believers. This includes (but is not limited to):
  - (a) assembling together as a whole body (Acts. 2:42; Heb. 10:25);
  - (b) assembling in smaller groups (2 Tim 2:2) ;
  - (c) meeting together one-on-one (1 Thess. 5:11);
  - (d) sharing and communicating truth together and building up one another (Rom. 1:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Thess 5:11; Philem. 6);
  - (e) sharing together in worship, i.e., the Lord’s supper (1 Cor 10:16), the singing of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), prayer (1 Cor. 14:16-17), the ministry of the Word (Acts 20:20; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 4:10-11);
  - (f) sharing together as partners in the needs, burdens, concerns, joys, and blessings for the purpose of encouragement, comfort, challenge or exhortation, praise, prayer and physical help according to the needs and ability (cf. Phil. 1:5 with 1:19; and 2:4 with 1:27; also 4:3; Rom. 12:15; and 1 Thess. 5:11,14,15; Heb. 10:33).
  - (g) sharing together (or in loving support of those who are sharing) in the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. (Phil 3:10)

**Question:** *How is your fellowship?* Does it need adjusting, addition, subtraction? Are you focusing on the majors or on the minors? What needs change in your life in this regard?