

A stone wall background with a white rectangular area in the center containing the text "Growing a Healthy Church". The stone wall is composed of various shades of brown, tan, and grey stones, arranged in a pattern that is roughly horizontal but with some vertical variations. The white area is a solid, bright white rectangle that frames the text.

# Growing a Healthy Church



# Series Outline


## **I. Filling Hearts**

- A. Christ the fulness
- B. The church as a bride

## **II. Overflowing hearts**

- A. The attractive quality of true fellowship
- B. Outreach that works
- C. Living and life-giving worship
- D. The prayer meeting you can't miss





**Philippians 1:1 - 7      2:1 - 2**  
**3:10      4:13 - 15**















- 1. Overflow only comes from full vessels**
- 2. There is only one Source of fulness**
- 3. True health and growth in the church results from overflow**
- 4. The overflowing heart:  
You can recognize it when you see it!**

**So . . .**

**What does a healthy, growing church  
(one filled with “overflowing” people)  
look like?**

# Koinonia in Philippians

The Greek word for fellowship is “*koinonia*”

It is translated fellowship, partner, communicate, distribute  
partake, share, communion, contribute

Luke 5:10 “James and John . . . were partners with Simon”

“To share responsibilities and rewards in common.”

# Koinonia in Philippians

Two important questions:

1. Do we really understand what NT fellowship is?
2. How can the local church encourage an environment where it can happen?

# Koinonia in Philippians

1. 'your fellowship in the gospel' 1:5
2. 'ye all are partakers of my grace' 1:7
3. 'if any fellowship of the Spirit' 2:1
4. 'the fellowship of his sufferings' 3:10
5. 'ye did share with my affliction' 4:14 - 15

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# Koinonia in Philippians

1. 'your fellowship in the gospel' 1:5  
The fellowship of **service**
2. 'ye all are partakers of my grace' 1:7  
The fellowship of **salvation**
3. 'if any fellowship of the Spirit' 2:1  
The fellowship of the **Spirit**
4. 'the fellowship of his sufferings' 3:10  
The fellowship of **suffering**
5. 'ye did share with my affliction' 4:14 - 15  
The fellowship of **substance**

# Koinonia in Philippians

The fellowship of **service**

The fellowship of **salvation**

The fellowship of the **Spirit**

The fellowship of **suffering**

The fellowship of **substance**

# Koinonia in Philippians

of **service**

of **salvation**

of the **Spirit**

of **suffering**

of **substance**

# Typical thoughts about fellowship

(by “assembly people”)

of **service**

involvement in activities

of **salvation**

the gospel

of the **Spirit**

spiritual gifts; worship

of **suffering**

pray for/ visit the sick

of **substance**

offering

# Typical thoughts about fellowship

(by outsider - newly saved or 'on the way' )

of **service**

What am I worth?

of **salvation**

Are you a family or an organization?

of the **Spirit**

Would I feel accepted?

of **suffering**

Are you like a hospital?

of **substance**

Are your belongings "means" or "ends"?

# Tracing these thoughts in John 4

What am I worth?

“Give me to drink”

v. 7

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“the water that I shall give . . . a springing fountain” v. 14



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“the water that I shall give . . . a springing fountain” v. 14

Are you like a hospital?

“Go, call your husband” v. 16

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Are you a family or an organization?

“you would have asked him . . . for living water” v. 10

Would I feel accepted?

“the water that I shall give . . . a springing fountain” v. 14

Are you like a hospital?

“Go, call your husband” v. 16

Are your belongings “means” or “ends”?

“The woman then left her waterpot” v. 28

“I have food to eat that you know not of” v.32

# Koinonia in Philippians

The fellowship of **service**

The fellowship of **salvation**

The fellowship of the **Spirit**

The fellowship of **suffering**

The fellowship of **substance**

# Koinonia in Philippians

## 3. 'if any fellowship of the Spirit' 2:1

- A place where I am accepted for who I am
  - A safe place to be open about heart/life problems
  - A safe place to begin dealing with heart/life problems (failures?)
  - A place that brings hope
  - A place where the atmosphere / environment / climate  
/ perception / feeling is a refuge I long to return to
- If "Yes" -
- I *will* bring others

(" where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:16)

# Conclusion

A healthy, growing church is marked by:

1. People with a healthy, growing relationship with the Lord
2. A healthy view of the church as a spotless bride; not a mixed multitude
3. Overflowing fellowship inside
- 4.
- 5.

Jesus said:

“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” Jn 8:32