Lifegroup Study (AM) – 15th July 2018

**Koinonia – Part 1 *ekklesia***

**INTRODUCTION**

Our new sermon series is based on *Koinonia* identifies the true state of fellowship and unity that should exist within the [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) church, the [Body of Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Body_of_Christ). Part 1 starts with *ekklesia*, the original word for church in the bible.

**VIDEO LINK**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG39P4ybwmM> (quote below)

“In our modern bibles, the world *ekklesia* (Greek) has been replaced by the word *church*. Much has been lost through that translation. At that time in history, *ekklesia* was a familiar word used to describe government. It literally means, ‘those set apart with the sole purpose of implementing and exporting the vision and values of the culture they were responsible for’. The disciples listening to Jesus would have understood this word in the context of the Roman Empire. In essence then, Jesus was saying, “I will build my government, my authority structure for the earth. It will be made up of *you* **fully set apart,** who have seen who I am, and have yielded to me as your king. Through you, I will advance my kingdom. Infusing the wisdom and values of my heart, restoring the vision of creation I had at its inception”. After Jesus death and resurrection, he instructed his bothers to wait before advancing in their mandate, before being imbued with power from on high. Once Jesus had returned to heaven ,they had responded to this instruction by setting themselves apart, continuing in prayer in worship, together in one accord, then suddenly the promised power engulfed the building as Holy Spirit poured out as wind and fire, filling all those present. The ***ekklesia***, Jesus precious holy people, His resting place on earth, through which His unstoppable, eternal, supreme authority would flow, was finally in place. His new creation was now visible, shining powerfully, filled with His nature, flesh of his flesh. The previously marred image was purified, washed by his blood, He had overcome, and now, supported by the power of His indwelling presence, one with Him, so were they.” - Liz Wright

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NIV)**

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

**2**To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

**3**Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**4**I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.**5**For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— **6**God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.**7**Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. **8**He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Acts 2:46-47**

**46**They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— **47**all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

**KEY POINTS**

* *Ekklessia* is accomplished through *Koinonia*, which means communion and joint participation (also called fellowship).
* We are called into *Koinonia* with Jesus Christ, which means we are also called into fellowship with His church, His precious people set apart for Himself.
* *Koinonia* goes deeper than just *being* together, but by doing things together - it is our partnership with Christ and others in fulfilling God’s purpose and will on earth together.
* God’s kingdom is visible because it is seen in Us, Jesus’ *ekklesia.* It is seen through our love, our serving, our hospitality, something we can all do.
* The *ekklesia* builds relationship through sharing of the meals. It is more than just coming together to eat food. The *ekklesia* proclaims and celebrates God’s love and our love for one another that will eventually touch all aspects of life.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon, was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within these passages, what insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's purposes for His people?
4. How can you participant in developing *ekklesia* in your family? In this Lifegroup? At Elim church? *(remember, ‘I’ answers, not ‘they or we’ – take personal responsibility)*
5. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves*.” Is there anything that God is asking you to stop, start or continue in this passage? What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word? (i.e. obedience)

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

* Invite someone to our Feast this weekend
* Invite someone to share a meal or coffee with you
* Participate in some aspect of serving at Elim, e.g. outreach teams, host teams,
* Chose to be committed to meeting regularly at services, Lifegroup, worship or prayer meetings.

**PRAYER POINTS**

* Ask God for a fresh revelation of what it means to be part of the church of God, in being and doing.
* Ask God to continue to build us as His church in a way that the people and community around us see the light of Jesus.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEAST:** 22nd July, 12pm, invite a friend

**GROWTH TRACK**: Starting 5 Aug, 12-1pm (FREE). A new 4-week course for all who want to grow in spiritual maturity, learn about our church's vision and strategy, upskill in knowing your personality type and spiritual gifts, and learn how to make disciples and grow in Christ. Sign up at Info Desk or via Reception.