

# Beliefs Matter

## Discovery Starters

### Fellowship

We are called to **commit to the Church** in both its local nurturing expression and its mobile multiplying expression [2Ch 29:20-30](#); [Psa 22:25-28](#); [Psa 122:1-4](#); [Joe 2:15-17](#); [Mat 18:19-20](#); [Act 2:44-47](#); [Act 4:32-35](#); [1Co 14:26-40](#); [Eph 2:11-18](#); [Heb 10:23-25](#)

### Belief #5 – Fellowship: Radical Koinonia

#### Biblical Foundation:

*And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 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—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 (Act 2:44-47).*

#### Discovery Starter:

The Greek words *koinonia* and *koinonos* may conjure up images of delicious dinners and cozy sofas where we can hang out and “fellowship” with one another. This is not what came to the mind of first-century believers. A *koinonos* referred to a voluntary association of human beings. It was a purposeful corporation formed for political, educational, religious, athletic, or commercial reasons. Plato, in his *Republic* speaks of the *koinonos* as the smallest, most basic building block of society. When the early church described itself as a *koinonos* it was a bold, counter-cultural declaration, affirming that they were a new society which challenged the existing world order.

Jesus did not call us to himself in an individualized manner. He called individuals into a body with Jesus at the center. This is what he did with the first twelve that followed him. This is also what he does with those of us who follow him today. Jesus promises, “where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them” (Mat 18:20). We’re called into a *koinonia*. Paul writes how the “meetings of God’s holy people” (1Co 14:33) should be conducted to “build up the church” (Eph 4:11-13). The main point is that everyone has something to contribute – like partners in a *koinonos* – and that “everything that is done must strengthen all of you ... so that everyone will learn and be encouraged” (1Co 14:26,31). Indeed, believers are admonished, “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not

neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another" (Heb 10:24-25).

But the gathering of God's people is not only for edification and encouragement; it is also to equip for external expansion. Peter writes, "for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light" (1Pe 2:9). This chosen people is called a *koinonos* because as a counter-cultural movement it's committed to expanding the kingdom of God on earth.

### **Keep Going:**

Do some research. Dig into history. Explore a time in the past when the church was the catalyst for some disruptive innovation that ushered in transformative change in society. Read some books. Watch some videos. Consider how you can contribute to the people of God in this generation. How can you be a part of an activated *koinonos*, expanding the kingdom of God in powerful redemptive ways? Gather with a group of friends in Christ. Seek his face. Pray. Read the Scriptures. Listen to his voice. Help each other grow. Encourage one another. Dream big. Get practical. Serve your community. Discover how you can extend the kingdom of God. With others be a truly radical *koinonia!*

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