

5. Reread the entry on “κοινωνία (koinōnia)” in the Lexham Theological Wordbook and then trace the usage of forms of this word as they are used in Philippians and with regard to the Philippian church in Paul’s epistles. How does Paul’s usage enrich your idea of what it means to partner in the gospel?

Philippians 1: ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now...

Philippians 1: ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you **share** in God’s grace with me.

Philippians 2: ¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any **common sharing** in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion...

Philippians 3: ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and **participation** in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

Philippians 4: ¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to **share** in my troubles.

Romans 15: ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased **to make a contribution** for the poor among the Lord’s people in Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 8: ³ ...Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of **sharing** in this service to the Lord’s people.

6. What are some of the ways you can or do already partner with missionaries that have gone locally or globally? If you do already, is there something more you can do to be a better partner?

Your Story in God’s Global Mission

“Partners in Mission”

Philippians 1:3-8; 2:25-30

A Generous Church

2 Corinthians 8: ¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches [= Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea]. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Philippians 1:4-5; 4:14-16

“My gift has not changed my lifestyle one bit. I still go to the movies I want to go to and eat at the restaurants I want to dine at. But what about the person who gives a gift that requires they can’t go to the movies or eat out. They are the true givers—the true heroes [of generosity].” (Warren Buffet)

People who _____ until they have more to give before they give rarely give when they have more to give.

Partnership

Paul could do what he did because there were people from the churches he had planted _____ with him in his mission.

κοινωνία (koinōnia)

In every language, time, and culture, words get their _____ by how they’re used. They NEVER get their meaning from a dictionary. The dictionary tells you how a word is actually BEING used. And one word can be used in many different ways.

You don't _____ all the meanings from every context into the meaning of the word when you use it or hear it being used.

You don't get the meaning of a word by looking at its _____.

You don't discover the meaning of a word by breaking it down into its syllables and then _____ the meaning of those syllables.

Language is complex and tied to culture to such a degree that many words, when they're used, are packed with cultural meaning. And some words become technical terms used as a shortcut in communication. Sometimes to understand how a word from another culture and language is being used, you may need a full length encyclopedic entry more than a _____.

Lexham Theological Wordbook: *κοινωνία* (koinōnia). n. fem. fellowship, communion, sharing, participation. A term that conveys a sense of commonality, solidarity, and shared responsibility among households or individuals. The most general sense of this term refers to a shared conviction that manifests itself as mutual responsibility and status. Most often, koinōnia refers to the sharing of resources, monetary or otherwise (e.g., Acts 2:42; Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 8:4; 9:13; Phlm 1:6; Heb 13:16). For example, in Rom 15:26 Christian assemblies in Macedonia and Achaia make a "donation" (koinōnia) for the poor in Jerusalem. In this text, the term koinōnia reflects the willingness of the assemblies to share their resources as a way of expressing solidarity with and responsibility for the saints in Jerusalem. Those who choose to willingly engage in mutual responsibility are described as having "partnership" (koinōnia) with the body of Christ (1 Cor 10:16), the gospel (Phil 1:5), the Spirit (Phil 2:1), the sufferings of the Messiah (Phil 3:10), or, negatively, unbelievers (2 Cor 6:14). The [the New Testament] also teaches that believers enjoy "fellowship" (koinōnia) with Jesus (e.g., 1 Cor 1:9; 1 John 1:3, 6).

There were people in the church in Philippi who were too _____ to ever travel outside of the city limits in their entire lifetime, but they were having an empire-wide impact by partnering with Paul.

Partnering with Missionaries

- U _____
- P _____
- R _____ and Reply
- G _____

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Philippians 1:3-8. How did Paul feel about the believers in the Philippians congregation?
3. Read Philippians 2:19-30 and 4:10-17. What forms did the partnership in the gospel between Paul and the Philippian church take as reflected in these passages?
4. How does the example of the Philippian church's generosity (in spite of financial hardship) encourage you in your faith (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)?