

## ...the main points again

A rather quaint word  
The Fellowship of the Ring..

A group of disparate people held together for a common purpose  
and committed to looking after one another...dwarves, elves and all

### **KOINONIA**

*The early Christians were conscious of being bound together because  
they were together bound to Christ*

- G E Ladd

Who am I? or Who are we? Or **Whose am I?**

### **Christ's**

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body*

- 1 Corinthians 12.13

Devoted to fellowship in Christ

*Although Christ is quite distinct from the church, as the body of Christ  
the church should be a powerful testimony to the reality of the risen  
Christ today. And that will be true only when individual Christians, or  
groups of Christians, lose their independence and learn again what it  
means to belong to one another and to share together their common life  
in Christ as members of his one body*

- David Watson

### **Each other's**

*...in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs  
to all the others.*

- Romans 12.5

**KOINONIA...** More than a feeling..

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They  
sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*

- Acts 2.44-45, cf. 2 Corinthians 8.1-5, Romans 15.26; Hebrews  
13.16

**KOINONIA...** a treatment for affluenza

Participating together in the gospel

*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, 6 being confident of this, that he who  
began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of  
Christ Jesus.*

- Philippians 1.3-6

Partners, not members- or at least members of a body

*A 'club' according to my dictionary, is an 'association of persons united  
by some common interest, meeting periodically for co-operation and  
conviviality'. But this club-mentality will not do for the church. The  
church is the Body of Christ, and Christians are inescapably and  
organically members of it*

- David Watson

**KOINONIA...**in an adolescent body

*Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the  
pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that  
the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith  
and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to  
the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

- Ephesians 4.11-13

You shall be the fellowship of the Ring  
Whatever next?



## **...so what...**

What do you understand by the word 'fellowship'? Do you use it?

In what sense?

If you have access to it, you might like to watch the Rivendell scene in *The Fellowship of the Ring* (I can lend the video)? What of fellowship do you see in this clip?

*The early Christians were conscious of being bound together because they were together bound to Christ*

Read 1 Corinthians 12.12-27

What does this image of being the Body of Christ suggest about the nature of fellowship?

Is there a difference between being a member and a partner?

Between being a member on a list and a member of a body?

Look at 1 Corinthians 12.26.

For this to be true, church has to be more than a service on a Sunday we attend...What does it have to be?

How seriously should we take the idea of fellowship meaning having goods in common? Read Acts 2.44-45; 2 Corinthians 8.1-5

Does affluence make fellowship harder- at least this sort of affluence?

What difference might this sort of fellowship make to our relationships, to the environment, to our giving?

Read Philippians 1.3-5

Devotion to the fellowship here involves sharing in, being partners in the gospel.

What do you think this means practically?

The Bible says we are the body of Christ, but we are not mature

We are adolescent- read Ephesians 4.11-13

Is this what these words are saying?

What would maturity look like? What can we do about it?

Pray together towards this and think for yourself how you might like to respond to devote yourself to the fellowship as a group and individually?

# **Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>**



# Devotion

## **Devoted to the Fellowship**

**Accts 2.42-47; 1 Corinthians 12.12-27**