

It is not complicated

When the early church came together, we read in Acts 2:42 that there were four things that they were devoted to: They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. The word "fellowship" has come to mean something I don't think was ever intended, particularly in Baptist circles. Contrary to popular belief, it does not mean sharing a potluck dinner.

G2842 *koinōnia* *koy-nohn-ee'-ah* From **G2844**; *partnership*, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction*: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

If we read a little further in Acts 2 we can gain a better understanding of this word:

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily **with one accord** (same passion) in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and **singleness of heart**, (simplicity of heart)

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

singleness of heart, every man worthy of the confidence of his neighbor; and all walking by the same rule, and minding the same thing. Each heart set on the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

Webster's Dictionary gives several meanings to the word **simplicity**. They are as follows: A. state of being simple; B. freedom from complexity, intricacy, or division; C. absence of luxury, plainness; D. freedom from deceit or guile; sincerity, E. lack of mental acuteness or shrewdness.

It is in the simplicity of the Gospel we find our fellowship. We are placed into one body by the blood of Christ. We have been set free from the Law's demands along with the shame and fear that came with that. Now we are to operate according to love. Not shame and fear. We find our rest in Jesus. No longer under condemnation as we endeavor to walk by the Spirit. No longer believing the lies of the devil but holding fast to the truth.

Moving away from the truth complicates our lives

Sir Walter Scott: '**Oh, what a tangled web we weave/When first we practice to deceive**' means that when you lie or act dishonestly you are initiating problems and a domino structure of complications which eventually run out of control.

Now we may not set out to deceive, but how often do we reject the truth in favor of a lie? Causing division and strife instead of unity of

the Spirit. We can see the effects of the pernicious nature of sin in the church when lies are believed divisions are formed relationships become strained and life becomes complicated. Shame, fear, and hatred become the motivators instead of Love.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and **the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Euodia and Syntyche were entangled and at odds with each other, no doubt over how things should be done. Judging each other and condemning each other because they weren't doing things their way.

Unrest results when we do not trust the truth

King Asa saw the support of God and experienced the results of unbelief.

2Ch 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will have wars."

Sin is like squeezing out a tube of toothpaste, once it is out you can't put it back in. Regret and shame take hold of us. Our fellowship is centered on the fact that our hearts are completely His!

Lam 1:14 "The yoke of my wrongdoings is bound; By His hand they are woven together. They have come upon my neck; He has made my strength fail. The Lord has handed me over To *those against whom* I am not able to stand.

The accuser torments our souls and we look for comfort

Lam 1:16 "For these things I weep; My eyes run down with water; Because **far from me is a comforter, One to restore my soul**. My children are desolate Because the enemy has prevailed."

The comforter Has Come!

Mat 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

Mat 11:30 "For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light."

Jesus went to the cross despising shame so that we may live free from the shame of sin. Out from the curse of the law and the accusations of the accuser. I think what is most difficult for us to comprehend and why we must keep looking to Jesus is that we have a hard time believing His grace is sufficient. Learning to operate out of a heart of compassion and love instead of condemnation, fear, and hatred.

God gives Help and Comfort... (we share in these)

Psa 116:6 **The LORD watches over the simple**; (naïve, foolish) I was brought low, and He saved me.

Psa 116:7 Return to your rest, my soul, For the LORD has dealt *generously* with you.

He is the shepherd and guardian of our souls

Psa 23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.

Psa 23:2 He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

Psa 23:3 **He restores my soul**; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For the sake of His name.

Restoration of the soul is a returning to the starting point – to bring back it is like putting the toothpaste back in the tube! Oh how we need reminding of the truth! WE ARE! A restoration of the Love of God.

We share the same Spirit.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Helper – to surround or protect. assistance and support in times of hardship and distress.

When we walk according to the Spirit we walk according to Love and we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and make things complicated.
(Roman 8:1-2)

Joh 15:26 But when **the Comforter is come**, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* **the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:**

Joh 15:27 And **ye also shall bear witness**, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

This also is the koinonia we share: a common communication.
(Philemon 1:6)