

# Called to *Communio*

In the New Testament, the term **κοινωνία** is a rich concept which encapsulates the deep, intimate, harmonious, and joyful union that the early Christians experienced with God and one another through Christ, and which we are called to foster and experience in our own age. In Latin, **κοινωνία** is translated as **communio**, from which “communion” and “community” are derived in English. The Trinity is a *Communio* of Divine Persons. We are called into that *communio* through communion with Christ. *Communio* is experienced and expressed in our love for one another in and through Christ, and in sharing with the needy. Sin weakens *communio*. Love builds it up. The following verses are significant instances where the term is used.

---

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the *communio*, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. —Acts 2:42

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the *communio* of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
—1 Corinthians 1:9

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have *communio* with us; and our *communio* is with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. —1 John 1:3

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the *communio* of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
—2 Corinthians 13:14

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a *communio* in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a *communio* in the body of Christ? —1 Corinthians 10:16

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what sharing has righteousness with iniquity? Or what *communio* has light with darkness? —2 Corinthians 6:14

If we say we have *communio* with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth. —1 John 1:6

James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of *communio*. —Galatians 2:9

. . . in view of your *communio* in the gospel. . . —Philippians 1:5

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any *communio* in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. —Philippians 2:1

. . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may have *communio* in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection of the dead. —Philippians 3:10

I pray that the *communio* of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ. —Philemon 6

Do not neglect to do good and *communio* (to share what you have), for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.  
—Hebrews 13:6

## **Communio as Contribution to/Solidarity with the Needy**

Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 8:4 & 9:13

# *Communio with One Another*

“Be at peace with one another” (Mark 9:48). “Love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (Jn 13:34). “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12). “This I command you, to love one another” (Jn 15:17). “For long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Rom 1:11-12). “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Rom 12:5). “Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor” (Rom 12:10). “Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly” (Rom 12:16). “Owe no one anything, except to love one another” (Rom 13:8). “Let us no more pass judgment on one another” (Rom 14:13). “Live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus” (Rom 15:5). “Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Rom 15:7). “Instruct one another” (Rom 15:14). “Greet one another with a holy kiss” (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Pt 5:14). “Wait for one another” (1 Cor 11:33). “. . . that the members may have the same care for one another” (1 Cor 12:25). “Agree with one another, live in peace. . .” (2 Cor 13:11). “Through love be servants of one another” (Gal 5:13). “Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another” (Gal 5:26). “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2). “. . . with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love. . .” (Eph 4:2). “Every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another” (Eph 4:25). “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph 4:32). “. . . addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. . .” (Eph 5:19). “Be subject to one another out of reverence to Christ” (Eph 5:21). “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil 2:4). “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man. . .” (Col 3:9). “. . . forbearing one another, and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Col 5:13). “. . . teach and admonish one another in all wisdom” (Col 3:16). “. . . you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men” (1 Th 3:12). “For you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another” (1 Th 4:9). “Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Th 4:18). “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (1 Th 5:11). “Always seek to do good to one another and to all” (1 Th 5:15). “. . . and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing” (2 Th 1:3). “Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” (Heb 3:13). “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb 10:24). “Encourage one another, and the all the more” (Heb 10:25). “Do not speak evil against one another, brethren” (James 4:11). “Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged” (James 5:9). “Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be saved” (James 5:16). “Love one another from the heart” (1 Pt 1:22). “Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Pt 4:8). “Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another” (1 Pt 4:9). “As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10). “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another” (1 Pt 5:5). “This is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another” (1 Jn 3:11). “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 Jn 3:16). “Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God” (1 Jn 4:7).