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Restoring Koinonia

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Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head. ¹⁶From Him the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** Last week we talked about the purpose of gifted spiritual **leaders** that God puts in our lives. V. 11-12
- B.** When all those who belong to a local church function as they are meant to function there are tremendous **results**. V. 13
 - 1. We reach unity in our **faith**.
 - 2. We reach unity in our level of **knowledge** of the Son of God.
 - 3. We each **mature** to look more and more like Jesus Christ in our character.
- C.** When these things happen then we, as a church, become **stable** and are able to withstand **false** teaching. V. 14
- D.** The local church becomes a place of **loving** accountability. V. 15
- E.** The local church becomes the **body** of Christ that it was meant to be in their location. V. 16

II. What does all of this have to do with Koinonia?

- A.** Past **lies** have destroyed the biblical concept of Koinonia.
 - 1. We must renounce the lie that we can be **healthy** Christians on our own without other Christians involved in our life.
 - 2. We must renounce the lie that **spiritual** gifts have passed away.
 - 3. We must renounce the lie that only the **pastor** is to minister to others and that we don't have anything to contribute to reaching others for Christ.
 - 4. We must renounce the lie that we don't have a **story**.
 - 5. We must renounce the lie that miracles and supernatural **experiences** don't happen anymore.
- B.** We can begin to seek God for our role to play in **restoring** a New Testament feel to our local church. We are a part of the Body of Christ here in North Manchester.