**Koinonia and Conflict**

**The Word**

Read together Philippians 4:2-3

**The Big Idea**

In the midst of conflict, Scripture calls us to focus on our common bond in the Lord and to pursue reconciliation wherever possible.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. On Sunday we discussed the idea of Christian fellowship, or “koinonia.” What about the idea of koinonia was most helpful and compelling to you?

2. Can you share a time in your life when you were in relational conflict and God spoke into your life or worked in a significant way that led to you navigating that conflict with faithfulness and grace?

3. Are there any current areas of relational conflict in your life that we can be praying for? Did Sunday’s message point you in a particular direction in terms of how God wants you to navigate that conflict?

4. At the end of Sunday’s message we were asked the simple question: Why are you at Grace? How would you honestly answer that question, and how do you feel about your answer?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Koinonia

A. Definition: Koinonia (often translated “fellowship”) is a joint venture or partnership

that involves a rich emotional experience and a common gravitational pull (like planets rotating around the sun)

B. Aspects of Koinonia

 1. Koinonia is voluntary (4:15)

 2. Koinonia is based on common shared goals

3. There is a continual danger of conflict among partners and friends (4:2, 2:3, 2:14). Conflict can be based on strategy, persons, leaders, resources, or doctrine.

4. Koinonia stabilizes when we re-identify the most weighty gravitational center of our koinonia = Jesus Christ as the saving power of God.

II. Paul’s encouragement to Euodia and Synteche (4:2-3)

 A. Paul encourages them to gather around the common core Jesus

 B. Paul enlists a third-party mediator who is not told to take a side.

C. Sometimes it’s the Holy Spirit who plays the role of changing our hearts and softening us towards each other (3:15)

D. Paul reminds them that they have labored side by side for the gospel. In conflict, sometimes we need to be reminded that we’ve labored together and shed sweat and tears together.

III. Why are you at Grace?

A. There are many reasons a person might be here: teaching, music, friends, vibe, youth ministry, etc.

B. Ultimately, we want to be here for the most important reason that draws us together = Jesus Christ is the saving power of God.