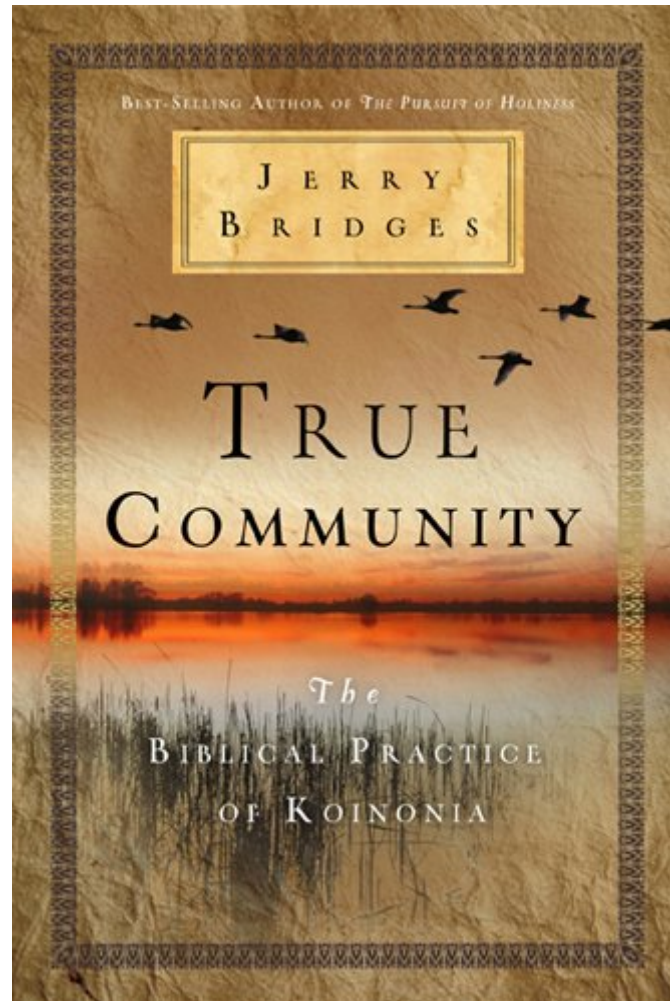




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True Community



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Synopsis

Fellowship among believers is more than just talking over coffee after church service. Biblical fellowship in New Testament times—*koinonia*—had rich and varied meanings, including covenant relationship, partnership in the gospel, communion with God and others, and the sharing of earthly possessions. In *True Community*, best-selling author Jerry Bridges guides you through *koinonia* and its implications for today's church. With discussion questions at the end of each chapter, this book will help you dig deeper into what Christian community in the twenty-first century should look like. You will come away with a new appreciation for fellowship, the church, and what God intended the body of Christ to be.

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Customer Reviews

This was a very refreshing book and cuts to the heart of what we have made modern-day community - really, an artificial, lifeless union with one another that produces little of the spiritual fruit of the early church. And it's no wonder when the essential ingredient, *koinonia*, is just not there. We

invest in programs and try all sorts of things to replace what the early church had naturally, born out of their life with Christ, and what we reap is a group of strangers that come together and give each other polite greetings, talk about sports and the weather, but little else. Churches have tried to address this with small groups and other things, but still fall short. But he doesn't leave us hopeless. He is very practical in the outworkings of koinonia. I would love to be a part of a church where this exists as it did in the early church, but have yet to see it in action for myself, except among a small group of friends (all part of different churches for the most part).

This book has an excellent balance of practical theology, exposition of Scripture, and readability. Bridges' description of fellowship is thorough, yet accessible to both light and deep readers. I've already read through it twice and I have notes everywhere. It has shaped my view of the church and helped me see how to interact with other Christians.

If you have studied on this topic before then there will not be anything "new" or "groundbreaking". But this is not a critique of the book. In fact, this work is well researched and does a reasonable job of remaining within the context of Scripture and theme. For those, in the modern church, who are looking to serve or approach ministry from an Acts 2 viewpoint this book is an excellent place to begin. If you are wanting to instruct your small group, church or fellowship to re-think mainstream modern ministry then this is a very good resource to engage in.

Bridges's book certainly helps correct the practice of community and fellowship that of us have experienced in our churches. A much deeper meaning and practice would change our lives. It changed my whole perspective of how God expects me to live.

Excellent publishing of the true meaning of Biblical fellowship. There have been many authors who have tried to grasp this topic but dear Jerry Bridges is very successful in doing so. It is an easy read and gives tangible examples to make the topic easy to understand.

This book is great for anyone looking to truly understand biblical fellowship. It's great as a personal study but also well suited to be used as a group study. The book is biblically based and very practical.

Read it!

Jerry Bridges has written a book which shows us the way to deeper fellowship as believers. He begins with defining the biblical term koinonia. Then he drops back to the individual level to speak of union and communion with God. In other words, if one does not have a personal relationship with God he or she can not have true community with other believers because our fellowship is rooted in the saving grace of Christ. With the issue of the individual's standing before God explained, Bridges goes on over the next chapters to explain different areas of fellowship which lead to true community. Spiritual fellowship, gospel partnership, the use of spiritual gifts, sharing of possessions, suffering, and service are among the areas Bridges addresses. These chapters are filled with solid biblical exposition and helpful application. I used True Community in a Sunday School class and found it very useful and appreciated by the group.

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