



Synced is a fascinating word. Like many words, its meaning has slightly changed over time. Words that have modulated over time tend to have a great depth of meaning - and when unpacked, they can give us new insights and lessons.

Most people understand that the word sync is short for synchronize. What thoughts or images that may come to mind when you think of the word synchronize? Maybe it would be the idea to "synchronize watches" in order to keep the same time together as a group. Or maybe it's an image of Olympic fame when several swimmers dance with graceful identical motions in the water called "synchronized swimming". No matter what picture comes to your mind, the usage of the word will always embody the idea that multiple things or items can be in time and unison with one another.

This word synchronize is from the ancient world Greek character Chronos who was the personification of the deity who governed linear time. You can begin to see the larger derivatives: chronicle, chronology, chronic - all have a meaning relative to time. The addition of the prefix "syn" gives the root word more depth, as "syn" translates in English to the word "with". So synchronize is "with time" or "placing a system (an assemblage or combination of things or parts forming a complex or unitary whole) in the same time."

The short form of this word was actually first used around 1945 in a technological application as in when the mouth movement and physical movement do not align. The modern urban dictionary takes it one step further from the concrete to the abstract and defines it this way: "Sync - To be in the same state of mind or thinking".

So why use this particular word "sync" as the focus of a Fellowship at Home campaign? Here are a few reasons why:

1. "Sync" relates to technology. We all are counting on our technologies to be in sync with one another. Without being in sync with one another, many of our basic technologies would not function properly including GPS, electronic calendars, bank accounts, mobile devices and computers, traffic lights, and the list can go on. We

need these things to be in time with one another. However, without proper guidance and some outside standard, they can have negative impacts on us.

2. "Sync" relates to our relationship with God and His Word. We are called to be ever-aligning our hearts with God's ways and His priorities. Is our "state of mind or thinking" in time with God and His standards of behavior? His desire is for each of us to have our hearts and minds daily transformed to fall in line with His heart and His mind. And just like technology, there are serious negative consequences for not being in sync and properly guided by God's standard.

3. "Sync" relates to our relationships with one another. Having healthy, proper relationships with others is vital in the life of a believer. And as a body of Christ, are we moving and growing in the same direction at the same time? Are we spending time in authentic fellowship with those around us, deepening our relationships with one another? Are we holding each other accountable for our use of technology and caring for others? Are we relating properly to each other in the context of our families? The consequences of not being spiritually synced together are significant.

"When people walk on a bridge, they collectively create complex and scattered frequencies, the combination of which is nowhere near that of the natural frequency of the bridge. However, when soldiers march in unison, the otherwise scattered frequencies of people walking is transformed into a more unified frequency. If this frequency closely matches the bridge's natural frequency, it could cause the bridge to resonate with amplified vibrations. The stronger the mechanical resonance that is produced, the better the chances are of the bridge collapsing." (From ScienceABC's.com)

Hopefully now when you hear the word sync, it can hold added meaning for you. When we observe things in sync there is power - power in technology, power with God, and power in the church and the community around us. It is the desire of Fellowship Bible Church for each of us to be SYNCED in all three of these aspects. And even more specifically as it relates to technology and the world around us, let's start claiming technology for good at home.