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Column A is the total occurrences of the word *αδελφος* (in sg. and pl. forms). Column B is the total times the congregation is addressed as “brothers” (plural only).

EPISTLE	A	B	REFERENCES
Romans	20	11	1:13; 7:1,4; 8:12; 10:1; 11:25; 12:1; 15:14, 15, 30; 16:17
1 Corinthians	38	20	1:10, 11, 26; 2:1; 3:1; 4:6; 7:24, 29; 10:1; 11:2, 33; 12:1; 14:6, 20, 26, 39; 15:1, (31 UBS), 50, 58; 16:15
2 Corinthians	12	1	13:11
Galatians	11	8	1:11; 3:15; 4:12, 28, 31; 5:11, 13; 6:1
Ephesians	3	2	6:10, 23
Philippians	9	6	1:12; 3:1, 13, 17; 4:1, 8
Colossians	5	-	
1 Thessalonians	19	14	1:4; 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:7; 4:1, 10, 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25
2 Thessalonians	9	7	1:3; 2:1, 13, 15; 3:1, 6, 13
Hebrews	10	4	3:1, 12; 10:19; 13:22
James	19	16	1:2, 9, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14; 3:1, 10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 10, 12, 19
1 Peter	1	-	
2 Peter	2	1	1:10
1 John	17	2	2:7; 3:13
Jude	1	-	
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What can be deduced from this survey is that the NT writers had in mind, and were distinctly addressing, only the male members of the congregation. Not once in the whole NT is a congregation addressed as ‘brothers and sisters’, despite the fact that the NRSV translates 1 Cor 15:1, ‘Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, . . .’ but there is no word for ‘sisters’ in the Greek!¹

Under the Old Covenant God stipulated that women did not constitute valid witnesses. Paul lived with this ruling, and so, when he came to list the witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection his list does not include a single woman, and yet everyone knew from the Gospels that Mary Magdalene was the first to see him and many other women as well.² According to Jewish law Peter was the first witness to Jesus’ resurrection, hence Paul begins his list with Peter/Cephas (1 Cor 15:5).

¹ The NRSV is not to be trusted as it has a policy of deliberately mistranslating the Greek in the interests of inclusive language. Other instances where ‘brothers’ has been deliberately replaced by ‘brothers and sisters’ are Rom 1:13; 1 Cor 1:10; 11, 26; 15:31, 50; 16:15, 20; and many other instances; or replaced by ‘friends’, see 1 Cor 14:39; or replaced by ‘beloved’, see 1 Cor 15:58.

² The NRSV, predictably, translates 1 Cor 15:6 as, ‘Then he [Jesus] appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time.’ The Greek has only 500 brothers. The translators of the NRSV missed the cultural and legal background that determined the composition of Paul’s list. They have reduced the number of male witnesses to 250.