



## Partner With Others

By Rev Lonny R. Bower 7 July, 2011 – www.fullmessage.org

Think about the partnership that resulted in you being led to the Lord. Nothing in God's kingdom is done alone; we need each other in order to reach the lost with the gospel. Every time you share the gospel, you are partnering with the one who shared it first with you

### II. Acknowledge and Affirm Fellow Leaders – Philippians 2:19-30 (GWT)

<sup>19</sup>I hope that the Lord Jesus will allow me to send Timothy to you soon so that I can receive some encouraging news about you. <sup>20</sup>I don't have anyone else like Timothy. He takes a genuine interest in your welfare. <sup>21</sup>Everyone else looks after his own interests, not after those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>But you know what kind of person Timothy proved to be. Like a father and son we worked hard together to spread the Good News. <sup>23</sup>I hope to send him as soon as I see how things are going to turn out for me. <sup>24</sup>But the Lord gives me confidence that I will come to visit you soon. <sup>25</sup>I feel that I must send Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier—back to you. You sent him as your personal representative to help me in my need. <sup>26</sup>He has been longing to see all of you and is troubled because you heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup>Indeed, he was so sick that he almost died. But God had mercy not only on him but also on me and kept me from having one sorrow on top of another. <sup>28</sup>So I'm especially eager to send him to you. In this way you will have the joy of seeing him again and I will feel relieved. <sup>29</sup>Give him a joyful Christian welcome. Make sure you honor people like Epaphroditus highly. <sup>30</sup>He risked his life and almost died for the work of Christ in order to make up for the help you couldn't give me.

<sup>b</sup>Paul knew what some church workers today do not know, that there is a difference between *unity* and *uniformity*. True spiritual unity comes from within; it is a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure from without. This is why Paul opens this section appealing to the highest possible spiritual motives (Phil. 2:1-4). Since the believers at Philippi are “in Christ,” this ought to encourage them to work toward unity and love, not division and rivalry. In a gracious way, Paul is saying to the church, “Your disagreements reveal that there is a spiritual problem in your fellowship. It isn't going to be solved by rules or threats; it's going to be solved when your hearts are right with Christ and with each other.” Paul wanted them to see that the basic cause

was *selfishness*, and the cause of selfishness is *pride*. There can be no joy in the life of the Christian who puts himself above others. <sup>b</sup>[Warren Wiersbe's “Be Series” “Be Joyful-Philippians”]

What or whose interests are you looking out for?

There certainly is no lack of workers in the kingdom. I believe that the main reason for this, is from the carnal perspective, there is the overwhelming belief that there is nothing to gain personally by serving others. Of course, this is a lie from the devil! Jesus taught us to look out for others and to serve others and by doing so, we would lay up treasure in heaven. So then, we have everything to gain. Lets serve as we're serving Christ, because we are.

### III. Partner Through Giving – Philippians 4:15-19 (GWT)

<sup>15</sup>You Philippians also know that in the early days, when I left the province of Macedonia to spread the Good News, you were the only church to share your money with me. You gave me what I needed, and you received what I gave you. <sup>16</sup>Even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided for my needs twice. <sup>17</sup>It's not that I'm looking for a gift. The opposite is true. I'm looking for your resources to increase. <sup>18</sup>You have paid me in full, and I have more than enough. Now that Epaphroditus has brought me your gifts, you have filled my needs. Your gifts are a soothing aroma, a sacrifice that God accepts and with which he is pleased. <sup>19</sup>My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.

Know this; nothing you do for Christ will go unnoticed. While men may not issue us their accolades, the record in heaven is being kept and one day the Lord himself will bring our deeds to light and reward us accordingly.