

HOW BELIEVING WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER BRINGS JOY

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide

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- The dictionary defines attitude this way: “a manner of acting, feeling, or thinking that shows one’s disposition . . . opinion, mental set.” That means how we _____ determines how we _____ and how we feel then determines how we _____.

† *Proverbs 4:23. Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life” (NCV).*

How Do We Develop Ministry Partnerships That Change The World For Christ

1. We have to have a _____ spirit with each other.

† *Philippians 2:19-21. “But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus” (NASB).*

- “Kindred spirit” is the Greek New Testament word [ἰσόψυχος; isopsychos]. This is the only time this rare word is used in the whole New Testament. This word literally means “equal soul.” Today, we would say “being of like mind” or “having much in common.” Timothy is such a godly apprentice to Paul that Paul mentions Timothy _____ times in his epistles. Paul was saying that Timothy was his equal in spreading the Gospel and making disciples.

† *2 Timothy 1:5. “I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you” (NLT).*

- Timothy will eventually go on to be the pastor/teacher at the church at Ephesus. In fact Paul will mention over _____ other names in his epistles of people who were co-workers with him in the Gospel.

- Dr. Luke stayed with Paul on his final imprisonment before his execution (2 Tim. 4:11). Paul called Luke the beloved Physician in Col. 4:14. Many scholars believed it was Dr. Luke who treated Paul with all his injuries from the beatings he received for sharing the Gospel.

† *1 Corinthians 15:33. “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals’” (NASB).*

† *Proverbs 17:17. “A true friend loves at all times, but a friend who is like a brother is born to share your troubles and problems” (PAR)*

What should a “kindred spirit” look like among godly partnerships?

(a) _____ to one another for Christ’s ministry and mission.

† *Philippians 2:20. “For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare” (NASB).*

- Jesus said that at the end of discipleship is _____.

† *Matthew 10:25. Jesus said, “. . . that after being trained, the student partner will become like his teacher” (PAR).*

(b) _____ about what concerns Jesus Christ.

† *Philippians 2:20. “For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare” (NASB).*

- The Greek New Testament word Paul uses for “concerned” is [μεριμνάω; merimnaō]. This expresses a strong feeling for something or someone, often to the point of being burdened.

† *2 Corinthians 11:28-29. “And not to mention other things, everyday I am under the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹When someone is weak, then I feel weak too; when someone is led into sin, I am filled with distress” (GNT).*

(c) Cultivate a _____ that is different from other so-called “Christians.”

† *Philippians 2:21. “For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus” (NASB).*

- † *Philippians 1:15-17*, “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; ¹⁶the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment” (NASB).

(d) Get a godly partner where both of you are totally _____ with God and with each other.

- † *Philippians 2:22a*. “But you know of his proven worth . . .” (NASB).
 - The words translated as “proven worth” is one word in Greek — [δοκιμή; dokimē]. It refers to going through a test and persevering – in other words, you passed the test.

(e) Get a godly partner who has a _____ for spreading the Gospel.

- † *Philippians 2:22b-24*. “. . . that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly ” (NASB).

2. We partner with someone who is willing but maybe doesn’t always _____.

- † *Philippians 2:25-28*. “But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you” (NASB).
 - The word Paul used to describe Epaphroditus being distressed is [ἀδημονέω; adēmoneō]. This is the same word use to describe the distress Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest and crucifixion. Epaphroditus was not distressed over his near death experience, but distressed that the church at Philippi was distressed over him. The Greek text suggest that when the church at Philippi had learned how sick Epaphroditus was, they had given up hope he was going to live.

3. We partner with someone who we honor for being willing to be “_____” in our ministry/partnership.

- † *Philippians 2:29-30*. “Receive him (Epaphroditus) then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me” (NASB).

***** **Next Steps Devotional Questions** *****

1. Who is your “Timothy, your Epaphroditus or Titus or Barnabas or Silas” you’re partnering with to help fulfill Christ’s ministry and mission? Who are you investing in spiritually who is younger to take over once you are dead and gone?
2. Do you have someone in this church who is just as devoted as you are to Christ’s ministry and mission? Are you devoted personally to Christ’s ministry and mission? Is your heart burdened with what burdens the heart of Christ? If so, what is the evidence of that in your life?
3. Are you distressed that every day, people are dying in the Wilmington area and going to hell? If so, what is the evidence of that in your life?
4. Who in our church can you have a dependable partnering relationship with that has the same “kindred spirit” to help you fulfill Jesus’ ministry and mission to this world?
5. Epaphroditus was willing to risk his life partnering with Paul as his “second fiddle” by carrying bags of money to the churches that Paul had established. What are you willing to risk for Jesus Christ?
6. Are you willing to say to Jesus, “Yes, Lord. I am available wherever You want to use me to join You in Your ministry and your mission.”
7. If how we think determines how we feel and how we feel then determines how we act, what does that reveal about your passion for Christ’s ministry and mission on this earth?