

Fellowship Means Partnership in the Gospel

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 1:3-6.

B. “Koinonia” means “partnership” in working together for the cause of the gospel. (Luke 5:5ff, 10; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Philemon 17)

II. Paul’s relationship with the Philippians indicates a couple senses in which we can be partners for the gospel or building each other up.

A. We make each others’ physical needs our needs in such a way that we are partners in risk, liabilities, and returns. (Philippians 4:11-17ff)

1. We are called both to local needs and needs abroad and we need to discover how to be responsible for that calling. (Matthew 28; Acts 1:8; Luke 17)
2. We can do this by partnering financially with missions organizations or with individual missionaries raising support.

B. We must partner with each other in prayer. This is more important than material partnership. (Philippians 1:19ff)

1. We tend to forget this part of the partnership with missionaries.
2. Missionaries need our prayers. (Romans 15:31)
 - a) For personal protection and their personal lives.
 - b) For the effectiveness of their ministries.
 - c) For workers to be sent out into the ministry. (Matthew 9:36)
3. Prayer makes a difference.

Application questions:

1. How can you incorporate prayer for the missionaries that you know into your daily life?

2. Do you see giving to “the work of the gospel” as a responsibility rather than an option?

3. In what way does prayer make a difference in the advancement of the gospel?
