

A Snapshot of Partnership

Series: Philemon: Living in Partnership

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March 14, 2021

One of the amazing, yet challenging aspects of being a Christ-follower is living or being in Partnership with God. That word, Partnership, in the Greek is Koinonia, which is often translated “Fellowship”.

Unfortunately, Fellowship is often associated with certain activities in a Church usually involving food! Koinonia is God’s intended model for Care within the Church AND for Advancing God’s Kingdom.

When this is done well, we see the Church thrive...when it’s lacking, we see strife and abandonment.

The Book of Philemon gives us a snapshot of how Koinonia looks and works. Today, we examine this snapshot and next Sunday we will explore how Koinonia can change the world!

- **Christian Partnership means _____
to New Creation realities.**

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— ²also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear about your **love for all his holy people** and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that **your partnership with us** in the faith may be **effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.** ⁷**Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.** Vs. 1-7

- **Christian Partnership insists on _____
of Kingdom priorities.**

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to **appeal to you on the basis of love.** It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰that **I appeal to you for my son Onesimus**, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹²**I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.** ¹³I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴**But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.** ¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. ¹⁷**So if you consider me a partner**, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Vs. 8-21

Closing:

God wants His followers to not only be morally righteous but also living their new reality!

Next Sunday, we will consider some practical implications for us and our world!

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by:

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