



Growing Partnerships in Life and Ministry

To grow our influence, we need to Partner in our work.

More can always be accomplished together than alone. Jesus sent us out together not alone.

Kingdom projects will always flow out of kingdom partnerships.

- Partnerships are the roots.
- Projects are the fruit.
- Biblical ministry is centered on partnerships not on projects.

God grows us through partnerships, and He grows our ministry through projects.

I believe that strategic living and strategic leading is based upon the practice of partnership.

In worship, work, and warfare, there is power in partnership. Conversely there is a weakness and vulnerability in isolation.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Qualities for Partnership:

- **Character** – Do they show Integrity, are they reliable and do what they say when they say it.
- **Chemistry** – Is there an ease with others, are they likeable, and trustworthy.
- **Competence** – Do they have the skills that bring strength to the task.
- **Capacity** – Do they have the time, and can they handle stress and pressure

3 CHARACTERISTICS FOUND IN PARTNERSHIP

1. Partnerships should be adaptive.
2. Partnerships should be responsive.
3. Partnerships should be collaborative

The First Characteristic is Adaptability:

Adaptable people are teachable & secure.

They pursue wisdom and have an appetite for growth.

James says, if any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)

We must learn to hear what God is saying in this hour.

If we act on yesterday's word- might miss God.

- **God is a progressive God.**

We know ...

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

God Himself does not change, the principles by which He interacts with man do not change, but ...the work that God is doing in our lives and in the world around us is progressive. Consider Elijah the prophet ...

1 Kings 17:1-9 The nature of God did not change, His promise to take care of Elijah did not change, but ...the way He provided for Elijah and what Elijah had to do to receive that provision-did change.

- **How we respond to change matters.**

We must be able to respond to change in order to move w/what God is doing in us/church/world.

- **Listen for the Now word from God.**

The second Characteristic is Responsive:

1 John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another."

Partnership building is intentional not accidental.

The third characteristic is collaborative:

To be collaborative, you must have the right perception.

The greatest example of a correct perception is that of Jesus and team Godhead.

Paul teaches that he was willing to be complete and not compete. **(Phil. 2:1-4)**

- Complete – Being like-minded, one in love, spirit, and mind.
- Compete – selfish ambition, vain conceit, value self over others.

The power of partnership is found in our diversity, not in our conformity.

We must develop our relational skills:

A relational orientation - The greatest relational skill is Love.

Jesus said, "by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" **John 13:35**

Saul of Tarsus was not a relational individual prior to his conversion.

Before Christ his relationships were characterized by: racial pride, cultural prejudice, religious legalism, anger, hostility and aggression.

Paul Learned and Modeled:

- Love over Legalism
- Motivation over Intimidation
- Relationship over Rules
- Praise over Criticism
- Affirmation over Condemnation

Pray for Partners:

- The people closest to you will largely determine the level of your leadership:
- Your partnerships will either take you up or take you down.
- Pray for Partnerships: Jesus Prayed all night before choosing his ministry partners (Luke 6:12-13)
- These will be the people you walk with, worship with, work together with, and witness together with.
- There must be compatibility Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together unless there is agreement?"

Therefore, pray in your partners...

Partnerships are not cheap:

How much did it cost God to bring us into partnership with Himself? - The Cost is the Cross!

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up the cross daily and follow Me." Lk 9:23

Paul describes the price of Partnership in (2 Cor 6:3-10)

"We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."

The Purpose for Partnership:

The purpose of partnership is to bring you to spiritual, emotional, and relational maturity.

QUESTIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP

1. What fruitful project are you working on currently without adequate partnership?
2. List one strength you lack and need a partner to help meet that need?
3. Who is someone that you can partner with to advance the purposes of Gods Kingdom?