

Partnership!

KJV 2 Corinthians 8:23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

Paul says if anyone wants to know who Titus is? He is my **partner** associate, companion and sharer of the responsibility and the reward for Kingdom work.

Partnership binds people together through cooperation.

Marriage is a partnership it binds two people together legally, allowing each one to represent the other in the market place.

The proper way to treat a wife when her husband is absent is to treat her like you would treat him and the same is true when the wife is absent from the husband.

Even when they're physically apart they are still **partners** sharing everything in life

In the Book of Philemon Paul appeals to Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive Paul because Philemon is now a **partner** with Paul in The Gospel.

Onesimus was Philemon's slave who had robbed him and run away to Rome where Paul met and converted him, and he served Paul in ministry—his name means “useful.”

Partnerships are useful especially when they use their strengths to benefit others.

ESV Philemon 1:17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Partners **represent** one another! This is what Paul says of Onesimus, he is no longer a slave but a brother and partner—he represents Christ and me.

This idea is strictly practiced in gangs, secret societies and in sports!

As the church understands and practices partnerships we'll be unstoppable!

- ❖ **To Represent** is to serve as a sign, symbol and example of who and what we are connected with!

Paul tells Philemon now that Onesimus is saved, spirit-filled and working with me for the Lord he is no longer to be considered a slave.

Onesimus is now **free in Christ** he can't be considered a slave any longer.

KJV John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

He's a brother in The Lord and my partner in ministry, when you see him it's like you see me, better yet it's like you see Jesus!

ESV Luke 5:1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "**Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.**"

5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.

7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

- Partners understand when one gets blessed the others get blessed!
- It doesn't matter what boat the blessing gets in we all **share** in the blessing!
- Every blessing won't fit in your boat, you need your partners boats too!

One church can't contain what God wants to do, we need churches partnering together!

Notice the **partners** names weren't mentioned, everyone knows who they are—they don't need constant recognition because they share the success!

KJV Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers (partners) are few;**

38 **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth (partners) labourers into his harvest.**

GWN 2 Corinthians 6:1 Since we are God's **(partners)** coworkers, we urge you not to let God's kindness be wasted on you.

As partners with God in Kingdom building we have a responsibility to reach out to the lost, the broken, the wounded, the angry, the selfish to all people and share with them the **mercy and grace** God shares with us!