

Are You on the Team?

Philippians 1:3-6

Introduction – The Dynamics of a Team

Philippians 1:3-6

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Exposition

Paul wrote to the church in Philippi to thank them for their generous partnership with him in the ministry of the gospel and to encourage them in their work as the church of Jesus Christ. The Philippian church had partnered with Paul in various ways that have significant implications for our own work at Copperfield Church. So today, I want us to consider five implications from the book of Philippians regarding what it means to partner for the gospel, what it means to be on the team together in gospel ministry as Copperfield Church.

Implications

1) Proclaiming the Message of the Gospel

Philippians 1:14

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and *dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

God's people personally proclaim the message of the gospel without fear!

2) Praying for the Advance of the Gospel

Philippians 1:19

For I know that *through your prayers* and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

God's people pray frequently and for the advancement of the gospel!

3) Participating in the Community of the Gospel

Philippians 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete *by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.* ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. *Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,* ⁴ *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

God's people are connected and fellowshiping with other Christians!

4) Persevering in the Hope of the Gospel

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. ***But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

God's people press on because of the hope that we possess in the gospel!

5) Practicing the Generosity for the Gospel

Philippians 4:10, 14-19

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed ***your concern for me***. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it... Yet it was good of you ***to share in my troubles***. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me ***in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only***; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, ***you sent me aid more than once when I was in need***. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; ***what I desire is that more be credited to your account***. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. ***I am amply supplied***, now that I have received from Epaphroditus ***the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God***. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

The generosity of God's people brings glory to God and does good toward others through the gospel!

Conclusion

As we have looked through Philippians today, we have seen clearly what it means to be on this gospel-advancing team that is called the church of Jesus Christ. This is what Copperfield Church is called to be. This is what you as a partner, as member of Copperfield Church are called to be engaged in. Are you on this team? Are you fulfilling your role? Are you being a team player, contributing to the work that God has given us?

Maybe you are only on the team in "name only." You are on the roster, but you don't play, you don't participate, you don't contribute. This morning, I'm calling you to a fresh start. There is still time. You are still needed. You are on this team for a purpose. God has gifted you, and it's time for you to use those gifts for His glory and the good of others!

If you are not on the team with us yet, I want to give you an opportunity to register for our upcoming Discover Copperfield class, which will allow to learn more about our congregation and see where you fit on the team. Copperfield Church is not a country club where membership grants special privileges and rights, but instead, membership is partnership in the gospel ministry. On the screen, you should see a number that I would invite you to text the word "Team." This will send you the registration information that you need to get connected with Copperfield Church and give you a chance to sign up for our Discover Copperfield class that is coming up on February 14th.

If you have never placed your trust in Christ, but want to this morning, I want to encourage you to text the word "Pray" to the number on the screen.