

SEVEN WAYS WE PARTNER WITH EACH OTHER TO DO GOD'S WORK

The Church as a Community of Believers
Part 2

Philippians 1:27b – “...that you are standing side by side with one strong purpose--to tell the Good News.” (Living)

Philippians 1:5 – “You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ...” (New Living)

SEVEN PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #1 – BE READY TO PRAY TOGETHER

Colossians 4:3a – “Pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message.” (New Living)

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #2 – FIND COMMON INTERESTS WITH THOSE IN YOUR SMALL GROUP AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 9:22b-23 – [22b] “Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. [23] I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.” (Living)

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #3 – REACH OUT IN LOVE

Why are we interested in the nonbelievers around us?

- [1] People without Jesus are lost eternally.
- [2] I owe God for the grace and forgiveness He's shown me.
- [3] I am love my neighbor as I love myself.

1 Corinthians 5:12a – “It is not my business to judge those who are not part of the church. God will judge them.” (New Century)

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #4 – SHARE YOUR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL TESTIMONY

1 Peter 2:9b – *“You are...God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.”*
(Message)

Psalms 66:16 – *“All of you who fear God, come and listen, and I will tell you what he has done for me.”* (New Century)

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #5 – BUILD FRIENDSHIPS IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH

Romans 12:16 – *“Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.”*
(Contemporary English Version)

Matthew 11:19 – *“The Son of Man, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!’”* (New Living)

2 Timothy 1:7 – *“The Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them.”* (LB)

57% of Americans said they would go to church if asked (LifeWay Research).

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #6 – EXPECT GOD TO ACT

Matthew 9:29 [Jesus] – *“Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith will it be done to you.’”* (NIV)

Charles Spurgeon (renown 19th century English preacher. 1834-1892).

Luke 5:20 – *“When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’”* (NIV)

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE #7 – REPRESENT CHRIST WITH YOUR LIFE

Colossians 3:17 – *“Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.”*
(New Living)

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12a [11] *“Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care of your own business, and do your own work ...[12a] then people who are not believers will respect you.”* (New Century)

[PICTURE – Strasbourg, Germany statue]

Prayer:

Father, You have given us a mission in the world to share Your Good News and Your love with other people. It's great we don't have to do it alone. We realize You've put specific people in our lives because You want us to share Your love and Your Word with them. We want to accept that mission and we expect Your work to be seen visibly this year. We want You to use us. Help us to be concerned about the people around us who don't know You. We want to partner with our small groups and Bible classes realizing that no one is going to know You unless we show them. No situation is hopeless and nobody is beyond the reach of Your love. In faith, we're asking You to bless our individual and collective efforts so that by the end of the year, thirty more people can call You "Father" and Port City their church home. In Jesus' name. Amen.