

MISSIONARIES NEED CHURCHES AS PARTNERS: Philippians 4:14-16

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14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.
16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

BIG IDEA: Missionaries need churches to share their troubles by meeting their needs. Churches do this by partnering with missionaries for the advancement of the gospel, not simply through one time gifts but through perpetual support.

SEVEN FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS CONCERNING MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES

I) Missionaries are sent and supplied in obedience to Christ's command in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

- **Matthew 28:19-20** "18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- **CHILDREN:** Did you know Jesus commands you and me to make Christians out of everybody in the whole world?

II) Missionaries are either Church-Planters or Church-Strengtheners, sometimes both (Ti. 1:5, 2 Tim. 2:2)

- **Q.** How did the apostles set out to fulfill the great commission? **A.** By preaching the gospel and planting churches.
- **Titus 1:5** "And this is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town."
- **Acts 15:41** "And [Paul] went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."

III) Missionaries should be approved, sent, and supplied by local churches (Acts 13:3)

- **Acts 13:3** "After fasting and praying they laid their hands on [Paul and Barnabas] and sent them off."

IV) Missionaries should be accountable to local churches (Acts 14:27)

- **Acts 14:27** "when [Paul and Barnabas] arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."

V) Missionaries should meet the same qualifications as pastors, because they are pastors (Eph. 4:11, 1 Tim. 3, Ti. 1)

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** "11 [Jesus] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."
- 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5 together give us great detail concerning the qualifications for Pastors.

VI) Missionaries are sent and supplied for the sake of Christ's name among the nations (Rom. 1:5, 2 Jn. 7)

- **Romans 1:5** "for the sake of his name among all the nations."
- **2 John 7** "For they have gone out for the sake of the name."
- **CHILDREN:** What do you feel when I say the name "Jesus"? Does it make you happy? It does me. This is why we go to the whole world! ***So that the name of Jesus would be loved by the whole world!***

VII) Missions exists because worship does not (1 Chron. 16:31, Is. 49:6, Rev. 5:9-12)

- **1 Chronicles 16:31** "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns!'"
- **Isaiah 49:6** "[The LORD] says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'"
- **Revelation 5:9-12** "9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

I. MISSIONARIES NEED CHURCHES TO SHARE THEIR TROUBLES BY MEETING THEIR NEEDS (vv. 14, 16)

Phil. 4:14 "Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. . . **16b** help for my needs." (*Remember 4:10-13, contentment*)

- **Q.** Who's trouble are you sharing? Who's needs are you meeting?
- **You may be the one needing your trouble shared and your needs met.** Praise Christ for His saints who are equipped to do just that. God help us!

II. CHURCHES MUST PARTNER WITH MISSIONARIES BECAUSE *SENDING FINANCIALLY* IS JUST AS VITAL AS *GOING PHYSICALLY* (v. 15)

Phil. 4:15 "And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only."

- (*giving and receiving*) **1 Corinthians 9:11** ""If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?"
- **Acts 18:4-5** (*After Paul left Macedonia, he is in Corinth*) "**4** And [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath (*why only the Sabbath?*), and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. **5** When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word (*"Paul began devoting himself completely to the word" NASB*), testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus."
- **Q.** Are you a *sender*? are you a *goer*? or are you disobedient?
- **Q.** Why not get trained, leave your job, and go to the nations, where Christ has not been named, giving your life and death for the sake of His name among the nations?

III. MISSIONARIES SHOULD BE TREATED MORE LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER AND LESS LIKE A BEGGAR (v. 16)

Phil. 4:16 "Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again." (*Remember v.10*)

- **Q.** Do you give only when people beg or do you give like you would when a family member is in need?
- **MATTHEW HENRY:** "It is a excellent thing to see those to whom God has abounded in the gifts of His grace abounding in grateful returns to His people and ministers, according to their own ability and their necessity."
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IV. MISSIONARIES SHOULD BE GENEROUSLY SUPPLIED EVEN AT GREAT COST TO THE SAINTS (2 Cor. 8:1-3)

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord."

- **Q.** If you were not in Christ would your budget look much different than it does now?

APPLICATION

- In your sacrificial giving, Saint, you are most like your faithful Savior Jesus Christ!

I) Has Christ shared your troubles by meeting your needs?

- **Oh yes!** "[Christ] was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." (**Isaiah 53:5**)
- **CHILDREN:** Did you know your biggest need is to be forgiven of your sin? Did you know Jesus became a human being just like you, but He never sinned—not once! And then when he was 33 years old, even younger than me, He let Himself be killed for our sins so that we could be forgiven? This is what we mean by "The Gospel."

II) Is Jesus a *sender*?

- **Yes, He is!** "...when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." (**John 15:26**)

III) Is the Lord Jesus a *goer*?

- **Oh yes!** "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (**1 Timothy 1:15**)
- "To Him who loved us long ago, before we came to be; who left His throne for earth below to save a wretch like me! All praise to Christ from grateful men, forevermore amen." — **James Montgomery Boice**

IV) Has Christ met your needs more than once; multiple times; times beyond counting?

- **Yes, He has! And, if your faith is in Him alone, He will continue to!** "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." (**Hebrews 7:25**)
- **How about Lamentations 3:22-23?** "22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

V) Has Christ met your needs more at great cost to Himself?

- Oh yes! On the cross He says to His Father, "14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death." (Psalm 22:14-15)
- **CHILDREN:** What is the most expensive thing you have ever bought? Now I want you to imagine seeing Jesus Christ one day and asking Him that question—"What is the most expensive thing you ever bought, Jesus?" Do you know what He would say? "You."

CONCLUDING EXHORTATION

- Look to Jesus, the great sharer of troubles and meeter of needs! Look to Jesus, the true Sender AND Goer come to save us and then send us His Spirit! Look to Jesus, who's steadfast love endures forever! Look to Jesus, who emptied his vaults to redeem you by grace!
- Then and only then can you be a faithful SENDER and GOER, obeying Jesus' Great Commission for the sake of His name among the nations!
- **Q.** Have you benefitted from being a part of a local church that preaches the word of God and the true gospel of Jesus Christ? Will you not be a part of doing that for others?