

Theme: God calls all of us to be part of church planting, either as radical supporters or radical planting team members.

I. Intro – Combat and Support Troops

- A. When we think of military we think of combat troops
- B. Actually far more are involved in support!
- C. Similar in church planting - we know of Paul and his team
- D. But many people supported his work
- E. To be successful you must have complete commitment from both groups

II. Radically Committed to Help Planting Teams

- A. The Philippians - radical helpers/senders (1:3-6)
 - 1. The Philippians were partners with Paul (1:5)
 - 2. Partners - κοινωνία - fellowship/share/participant
 - a. Related words used a lot in letter - key theme
 - b. 2nd highest frequency in NT
 - 3. Sharers/partners in God's grace (1:7)
 - a. Partners in salvation, ministry
 - b. Note closeness of relationship
 - 4. Radically shared in Paul's troubles (4:14)
 - 5. Radical partners from the beginning (Phil. 4:15)
 - 6. They did not travel with him as he planted churches
 - 7. They were radically committed partners

B. The requirements to be a radical partner

- 1. Radical prayer - Col. 4:2-4; Eph 6:19-20; 2 Thess 3:1
- 2. Radical giving - Phil 4:14-16; Phil 4:18
- 3. Radical emotional bond (friendship) - Phil 4:10, 14
- 4. Radical giving of people - have to send out people
 - a. Antioch - Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:1-3)
 - b. Lystra - Timothy (Acts 16:1-3)

III. Radically Committed Planting Team Members

- A. Timothy - radically committed planting team member
 - 1. Timothy - a proven team member (Phil 2:19-22)
 - 2. Left all to go with Paul; circumcised (Acts 16:1-3)
 - 3. Also true of Epaphroditus [Philippians 2:25-29]
 - 4. Same is true of Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Titus, etc.
- B. The requirements to be a radical planting team member
 - 1. Put Christ's interests ahead of their own (Phili 2:20-22)
 - 2. Serve under the team leader (Phil 2:19, 22)
 - a. Timothy served Paul's vision - not vice-versa
 - b. Common theme! - 1 Cor 4:17; 1 Thess 3:2; Titus 1:5
 - c. Not a dictatorship; but there can't be varying visions
 - d. Not for people who have their own agenda
 - 3. A heart to reach those not yet reached (Rom.15:20-22)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Are you seeking God about how you are to be involved in church planting?
 - 1. No one is called to sit on the sidelines!
 - 2. No one can be disinterested - this is a call from God
 - 3. Radical partner, radical team member, or radically disobedient
- B. Are you called to be a radical partner?
 - 1. Are you willing to pray and give to support?
 - 2. Are you willing to give up people to do this?
 - 3. Are you willing to build friendships - and then let go?
- C. Are you called to be a radical planting team member?
 - 1. This not just about excitement of something new
 - 2. This is not about getting away from Bret & elders!
 - 3. Are you willing to put Christ's interests first?
 - 4. Are you willing to put RCC before your own desires?
 - 5. Are you willing to stick it out - good times and bad?
 - 6. God is calling some - are you one?
- D. Prayer for BRCC and RCC

The Power of Radical Commitment to Church Planting

Philippians 1:3-6; 2:19-24

Isaiah 6:1-8

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Prayer

Deuteronomy 1:11

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. Philippians 1:3-6

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. Philippians 2:19-24

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you **share** in God's grace with me. Philippians 1:7

Yet it was good of you to **share** in my troubles. Philippians 4:14

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; Philippians 4:15

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4:2-4

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Eph 6:19-20

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. 2 Thessalonians 3:1

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 again and again** when I was in need. Philippians 4:14-16

I have received full payment and even more; 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.. Philippians 4:18

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have **renewed your concern for me**. **Indeed, you have been concerned**, but you had no opportunity to show it.... 14 Yet it was good of you to **share in my troubles**. Philippians 4:10, 14

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. Philippians 2:19-24

He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:1-3

For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1 Corinthians 4:17

We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 1 Thessalonians 3:2

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. Titus 1:5

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. 21 Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." 22 This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. Romans 15:20-22