

# Take It Home

Applying the Preached Word



## Gospel Partnership

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**Text:** Philippians 1: 3-14

### Main Point

This church is a part of a family of churches known as Sovereign Grace Ministries which partners to plant and build local churches with the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no better portrait of gospel partnership in Scripture than the one found here in Philippians.

### Key Ideas

#### 1. A praying partnership (v 3-5)

- Gospel mission never depends upon man, rather it is God's work in which he chooses to use man and so any genuine partnership in the gospel must be saturated with prayer where we together cry out to God for His grace and power to accomplish what He's called us to do.
- SGM is navigating through some challenging times right now. God is at work making us aware of our weaknesses and shortcomings. It's important that we don't waste our weaknesses, rather we must convert them into desperate prayers for God's grace and power

#### 2. A relational partnership (v 7-8)

- Genuine gospel partnerships are built with and involve rich relationships. This relational value is something that is very dear to us in SGM. It affects everything we do.
- These relationships have led to the planting of many new churches with more to come

#### 3. A giving partnership (v 14-18)

- Gospel partnership includes sacrificial financial giving
- Despite the struggles and problems Sovereign Grace ministries is facing it still is committed to the advance of the gospel. And our problems should not hinder our giving. It's hard to find a church in the NT that didn't have difficulties and yet the gospel, because of its inherent power, advances through those churches. Throughout the NT, throughout church history, gospel progress isn't stopped because of our difficulties rather the gospel advances through our trials and difficulties. The gospel doesn't take a vacation for problems.

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- Gospel advancement occurs despite our difficulties because, as Scripture shows us it is inherently powerful (Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:5, 6).

- Let us be a church, let us be a family of churches that believes in the power of the gospel so that our gospel partnership leads to gospel advancement to every tribe, people and nation for the glory of God

## **Fellowship Starters**

*Treasure - Application to stir our love for Christ?*

1. Have you ever thought about how you were converted, probably through some kind of partnership in the gospel; a person connected to a church or ministry that worked together to bring the gospel to you? How does that affect your sense of gratitude to Jesus for his church?
2. As sharers in Covenant Fellowship Church, every spiritual blessing we receive is the fruit of Christ working in hundreds of hearts over dozens of years in partnership with numerous other churches: what emotions do you feel toward God for what He has done through all these people working together?
3. Do you ever wonder why God chose you to be part of the church, which is "the greatest movement in history" and "the world's only light"? How do you respond to this astonishing truth?

*Grow - Application to stir our obedience to Christ*

4. How often do you think of your faith in categories beyond your own personal salvation and God meeting your own personal needs? How strong is your awareness that your faith has outreaching, gospel advancing significance; that you are called to be a part of something bigger than yourself? What are steps you can take to cultivate a much bigger, community and global conscience, and a commitment to the progress of the gospel?
5. How do you think you can share in the work of Sovereign Grace Ministries for the advance of the gospel? Try to come up with at least three ways you can appreciate and improve this partnership more.
6. Please pray for Sovereign Grace Ministries as outlined in Dave Harvey's Plant and Build post this past Thursday. \*
  - Pray for SGM's partnership with each of its local churches
  - Pray for our gospel mission as a family of churches

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- Pray for Kenny Lynch and Brandywine Grace Church as they look for a new meeting facility.
- Pray for Jose Prado, church planter in Miami, FL, who is looking for a meeting location for his church plant.

*Proclaim - Application to stir our witness for Christ*

7. Did you grab some Christmas gift bags, remembering that you are not to eat the candy cane? These gifts bags are one expression of partnership with your church to bring the gospel into your community. Would you commit to sharing in this?
8. Have you thought through a holiday evangelism strategy for your life and your family? What's it going to look like?

\* <http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/blogs/sgm/post/How-to-pray-for-Sovereign-Grace-Ministries.aspx>