

Empowered Co-workers

7-5-26

2Corinthians 6:1

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

In 2Cor.5:17, we see that God by HIS grace has reconciled us to HIMSELF making us new creations. Now as new creations God has entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to us. As ministers of reconciliation God calls us Ambassadors on behalf of Christ as stated in 2Cor.5:20. Now, here in 2Cor.6:1, we are referred to as God's co-workers who are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation: **not a position but a responsibly**. Being God's co-worker carries over into our daily life.

1Thess.4:11-12

You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Therefore, as Ambassadors for Christ, co-worker with God, we should work as ministers of reconciliation wherever God has placed us. As God's co-workers we also support other co-workers in the ministry of reconciliation.

3 John 7–8 (ESV)

⁷ For they (co-workers) have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

We are co-workers when we support other co-workers. Jesus makes it clear that if someone supports someone HE sent they in fact were supporting Jesus HIMSELF. Therefore, being co-workers.

John 13:20 (ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives ME (Jesus), and whoever receives ME (Jesus) receives the ONE (The Father) who sent ME.

However, God warns us to be cautious and exercise discernment concerning those we support.

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Caution, when we support someone, we become a Co-worker with whomever we support.

2 John 10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching (message of reconciliation), do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Whenever we support someone, we become co-workers with them. Concerned about this, Paul gives his credentials in 2Corinthians 6:3-13 proving himself to be a legitimate co-worker of God, such as enduring beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger, etc. Paul was not in it for the prestige or money and he suffered greatly. This is a good assessment for any outside speaker that claims to speak for God. Give them some grace but hold them to a higher standard. Now back to:

2Corinthians 6:1

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

Co-workers do not receive God's grace in vain.

Grace is the favor and power of God, the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. Grace should be reflected in our life. We are saved by Grace, but we also to live by Grace.

God's co-workers should not squander the riches given us by failing to live in HIS power.

Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has appeared ... teaching us ... to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

Grace teaches. By cooperating with God we are changed. God warns us that there are consequences for not cooperating with God.

Heb.12:15

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no (accompanying) bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

By neglecting God's grace, HIS abundant riches, we become disappointed and grow bitter causing trouble for ourselves and defiling those around us. Thus, we should humble ourselves to God and HE will give us favor and power in this life.

1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**Living in Grace is based on our decision.
Cooperate with God, HE is working within us.**

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

It is God who works in you, both to will (give us the will) and to work (give power) for his good pleasure.

God gives his people all they will take. It is important for us not to fail to make use of our opportunities. Grace empowers us when we call out to Jesus. As co-workers and ambassadors, we must go to God's throne to find the will and power to help us in our time of need.

Heb.4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

As God's co-workers, we see the urgency of God's work.

2Corinthians 6:2

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

As Ambassadors for Christ, God's co-workers, we are told that "now" is the time of God's favor, "now" is the day of salvation. This is the Day for the message of reconciliation which was entrusted to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.