

Preach the Word

Discussion Starters

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Partnering with Peers

Proclaim Grace Key Issue #6

Please Note: *the September/October 2011 newsletter incorrectly bears the numbering: Vol. 14 No. 7*

Use any or all of the following questions for personal reflection or group study. Feel free to pick and choose which applications interest you most; even if you only complete one or two you'll benefit.

Prof. Gurgel writes, **"It's not unusual for my phone to ring and on the other end is a pastor who wants to discuss a challenging text" (p. 1).** A preacher might be more attracted to the idea of discussing a challenging text on the phone with a seminary homiletics professor than in person with a brother pastor.

List at least 3 motivations behind this preference—some from the article on p. 1, some from your own reasoning, some healthy, and some unhealthy. In order to encourage yourself or a brother to try partnering with a peer, rather than a prof, what would help change how such partnering is viewed?

Open the book of 2 Timothy and refer to each of Paul's fellow workers below. Read about each and answer the accompanying question.

Onesiphorus (1:16-18)—Paul appreciates this friend and helper who was "not ashamed" of Paul's "chains." In what ways can peer partners demonstrate to each other that we are not ashamed of another's circumstances or characteristics?

Mark & Timothy (4:9-11)—Prof. Gurgel asks, "If God's inspired apostle longs for Timothy's support, where does that leave me?" As you compare verses 9-11 with verse 17, how do we reconcile Paul's trust in divine help with how much he valued the support of ministry peers?

Engage in a group discussion about pre-sermon peer partnering (p. 2).

What experiences have you or a brother had in group text study? What worked well? How did you grow? What might you do differently?

Then, discuss 1) how joint text study might look in your particular group and 2) the steps necessary to give it a try.

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Which of the following post-sermon peer partnering efforts have you experienced (p. 3)? Which (whether past, present, or potential) connects best with your gifts, personality, and learning style? Explain the challenges or benefits you see in each.

Monthly circuit meetings

Two or more pastors agreeing to watch or read another's sermons

"Stealth" partnering, reading, hearing, or viewing the sermons of other preachers

Associate pastor feedback

Page 4 of the newsletter addresses the challenges we face in giving and receiving honest feedback on sermons.

Read the verses below from Proverbs, then debate answers to these two questions: 1) Who bears greater responsibility for healthy interaction between brothers: the one who *offers* feedback or the one who *receives* feedback? 2) What is the single greatest factor for the one receiving and the one giving feedback that can help this work better in our midst?

10:8,12,17,19,21

11:2,12

12:1,15

13:3,18

15:1,23

16:18,21

18:2,15

26:12

27:5,6

29:22,23

*Submit one idea at [Grow in Grace \(wlsce.net\)](http://Grow in Grace (wlsce.net)) related to **Key Issue #8: Preaching sanctification flowing from and empowered by the gospel**. What challenges you when preaching sanctification? What resources have you found helpful in approaching this preaching task from a gospel-centered biblical perspective? Share sermons you've heard that handled this challenge well*