

# THE TRELLIS AND THE VINE

## Chapter 5 Study Guide

1. What is the gospel's view of humans striving for righteousness (Phil 3:7-9; 1:7, 29)?
2. Read Philippians 1:27-30; 2:14-16. What is the nature of the partnership that the Philippians had with Paul?
3. What does Philippians teach us about the motivations for being a partner in the work of Christ? Why do we do it?
4. In what ways do the authors point out that gospel partnership is the normal Christian life?
5. Who are you in gospel partnership with, and how are you working together for the growth of the gospel?
6. "In our society, when you join as a 'member' of something, it can have connotations of passivity and consumerism (p. 66-67)." In what ways can we help the membership at Harvest emphasize partnership instead of consumerism?
7. Describe in your own words the responsibilities of the pastor found in this chapter.
8. "... at a profound level, all pastors and elders are also just partners. They do not have a different essence or status, or a fundamentally different task—as if they are the real 'players', and the rest of the congregation are spectators or support crew. A pastor or elder is a vine-worker who has been given a particular responsibility to care for and equip the people for their partnership in the gospel." (p. 67) Is this how you view the role of the pastor and leadership at Harvest?
9. If so, how does this view express itself in your congregational life? Would someone visiting your congregation conclude that this was your view from what they observed?
10. How does this view of partnership lend itself to training?