

# Commitment to Relationships

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 2:25.

B. Epaphroditus was Paul's brother, companion in labor, fellow soldier.

1. The brother is the first relationship among Christians.

2. The companion in labor is a tighter relationship. Not every Christian is laboring.

3. The fellow soldier is the person whom one shares common experiences. These are the people we rely on—there is an unfiltered relationship and an oneness.

C. The fellow soldier has a common purpose, authentic accountability and freedom.

## II. A common purpose. (Philippians 1:27)

A. Sometimes we become so professional and organized that we channel people and end up all alone.

B. We want to have others whom we have a shared purpose. (Daniel 1:8, Acts 16:10)

C. There is mutuality to this kind of relationship.

## III. An authentic accountability.

A. We are called to walk in the light and exhort one another daily. (I John 1, Hebrews 3:13)

B. Sin is deceitful and it hardens a person. We need to encourage one another in order to thwart this.

C. We need people to come along side of us to encourage us daily. (Luke 22:28, II Corinthians 6:11-14)

## IV. Freedom. We serve one another by giving space.

### **Application questions:**

1. With whom do you share this kind of relationship? How have these relationships affected you?

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2. How can one develop this kind of relationship?

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3. Why are both accountability and freedom important? Explain.

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