

Paul and the Corinthians

What about you?

Can you think of a situation in your ministry where a supporting church (or major financial partner) has tried, or might try, to 'force' you to do something different from what you believe God wants you to do? How did/would you feel about this?

If a close Christian friend, or a significant church you've been a part of, decides not to be a financial partner with you, then you are in good company (eg, with the apostle Paul). Write down the way you would respond to this situation:

- for your relationship with God and the mission work he has set you apart to do
- for your ongoing relationship with your friend or church.

Discuss this with a respected leader in your church or mission agency.

Verse

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. [LUKE 6:37-38]



Prayer – use this prayer or write your own:

Father, thank you that you are my provider, not my supporters. I acknowledge that your choice of supporter for me is always the best, even when I would have chosen differently. Help me to see your hand in both the disappointments and the encouragements. Amen

For further reflection

Sometimes we try to second-guess the responses of our partner churches, and then are tempted to write letters to justify their support for us based on what we think they want to hear. How do you feel about finding yourself in this situation?

Though understandable from a human perspective, gospel ministry is God's work and our integrity is key. However we feel, we mustn't lose the truth on the way.