

PD Q & A

1. Is it biblical to live on support? Is PD biblical?

I had the same questions. There is a lot of work to be done for God's kingdom and God has a consistent track record of providing for those in ministry. More specifically, there are 4 compelling ways the bible shows us that missionaries called to full-time service have the right to be supported: the example of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus, the example of Paul, and the teaching of Paul.

1. Example of Jesus: In Luke 8, Jesus was supported by many individuals out of their own means.

2. Teaching of Jesus: In Matthew 10:9-10, Jesus sent out His disciples with no money, no bag, and no extra clothes. After they learned that lesson of trusting in God for everything, he sent them out with all of those things so they could also learn how to plan.

3. Example of Paul: In Acts 18, when Paul was financially supported, he devoted himself completely to the word.

4. Teaching of Paul: 1 Corinthians 9:14 says, "In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

2. Is it biblical to ask for support?

That's a great question because I struggled with this as well. As I studied the scripture, I saw that, philosophically, God wants more people to be laborers in the field and God provides for his own.

1. Nehemiah asked a pagan king to provide for the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem.

2. Paul asked the Philippian church to support him in Philippians 1 & 4. In Romans 15:24, Paul asked the Roman church to help him on his journey.

3. Paul did tent-making. Couldn't you do the same?

Good question! Tent-making is more viewed as a practical option rather than an ideal strategy.

Today: Today, missionaries can gain access to closed countries through tent-making but they are quite limited in how much time they can spend sharing the gospel.

Paul's Day: In Paul's day, he did tent-making temporarily in 3 cases.

1. Thessalonica – They were lazy so Paul modeled what it meant to work hard.

2. Ephesus – He didn't want to be accused of putting the heathen craftsmen out of business for personal gain.

3. Corinth – Paul was making tents temporarily until Silas and Timothy arrived with financial support. Then he devoted himself exclusively to preaching.

4. Do you have the right to live on support?

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul gives 5 reasons to defend his right to live on support.

1. Logic: (7) "Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?"

2. Law: (9) "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain".

3. Leadership: (11) "If we sow spiritual things, is it too much to reap physical things?"

4. Levites: (13) "Those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple."

5. Lord: (14) "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

5. Don't you view PD as begging? Why are you begging for money?

I can see why some people would see this as begging. Actually, Paul gives 5 reasons why full-time ministers have the right to be supported. (See above)

6. Why don't you get a real job?

This is an interesting question. In my opinion, this is not only a real job, but it may be more real than any other job. Jesus lived on support, spreading the good news. I can't think of a job more real than giving people the answer to their hopelessness and the key to eternal life.

7. What will you be doing in your ministry? (OR) Why are you going to Thailand? (60 Sec)

Jesus said in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." A huge problem in the missions world is that there are not enough missionaries. Additionally, of those sent, only 1 out of 30 goes to the 7,000 remaining UPGs of the world.

We want to go to the UPGs of Thailand. It breaks my heart that in Thailand, one person dies every minute without ever hearing about Jesus and less than 1% of the population is Christian! However, Thailand is experiencing greater Christian growth than ever before. When God's Spirit is moving, we think God's people should respond.

So, through Global Frontier Missions, we are leading a team of people to mobilize, train, and multiply disciples.

-Mobilizing gets more laborers to the field.

-Training keeps them there longer.

-Multiplying starts new churches.

8. Aren't you supposed to be supported by people you minister to?

In 3 John 5-8, Paul encourages to believers to support those in ministry even when they are strangers.

9. Don't you think that budget is too high?

I know it's a lot of money but God is not limited on funds. Our budget is average for a family our size. We have set our lifestyle to have maximum fruitfulness in life, ministry, and marriage without overindulging.

10. Should you take support from a non-believer?

Good question: Even though I can't tell who is or is not a Christian, I don't believe it's a good idea to appeal to known non-Christians. However, there are several examples where God used non-believers to fund the ministry, like Nehemiah, Elijah, and plundering the Egyptians.

11. Should you ask people to support you who are poor?

God is honored by the gifts from people of all income levels. In fact, the story of the poor widow teaches us that God places a higher value on sacrificial giving.

12. Why won't your mission agency pay you?

There are many reasons we prefer PD over getting a regular paycheck.

1. The main way I have seen full-time Christian workers being funded in the New Testament is through partnership. Christian workers getting a guaranteed paycheck is a new thought within the last 100 years.

2. PD is ministry because we regularly compel people to be a part of the great commission.

3. Mutual Accountability With Partners

4. Vision & Direction Comes From God

5. More Stable

13. How will giving to your ministry benefit us?

Jesus told us to store up treasure in heaven. We do that by investing time and money in God's kingdom work. The work we are doing in Thailand is among the least reached people groups and some of the greatest needs in the world. We are offering to have you partner with us in this ministry for God's glory and for your benefit of treasure in heaven.

14. I am very, very busy? Do we really need to meet?

I can understand that you are very busy. I am happy to have just 20 minutes of your time to explain what God has laid on my heart. Can we meet on Wednesday at 6:00?

15. We heard your presentation on Sunday. (OR) A friend already told us what you are doing. Do we really need to meet?

I'm so glad that you've heard a bit about our ministry! But I'd like to give you an update and go into more detail about what God has been doing in our lives. Can we meet on Wednesday at 6:00?

16. We know the church is supporting you. Are you asking us to support you as well?

We are so grateful that the church is supporting us. The \$200/month from the church is very helpful but we still need to raise \$2,000 a month. Can we meet this coming weekend?