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## Encouraging Family Partnership

“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 1:6)

**At a recent seminar Emilie and I attended, the speaker was giving illustrations on control within a family. Some participants thought specific family members and acts of the family showed who had control. Comments included:**

- The breadwinner of the family has control.
- Mom does because she makes more money.
- The one who signs the checks has control.
- The one who pays the bill at the restaurant when we go out has control.
- The husband has control because he is responsible for the family.

**After several more comments were written on the board, a strong male voice in the middle of the audience shouted out, “The one who controls the TV clicker has control!” Everyone laughed, knowing that he was on the right track for many families.** Who would have thought this statement might really have some validity? If it is really true, then we have lost sight of God’s intent for family leadership.

**In Philippians 1 Paul teaches some basic principles on partnership in ministry.** He wants us to see the power of God and how He truly is the one in control. **Paul’s opening words to the Philippians show us several components of encouraging your family partnership:**

- **Thank God for all your remembrance of each family member (verse 3)**
- **Offer prayers with joy (verse 4)**
- **Affirm that each member is an active participant in the gospel (verse 5)**
- **Exhibit a perspective of confidence for the future (verse 6)**
- **Acknowledge that He who began a good work in you will perfect it (verse 6)**

**Such teamwork support leads to confidence. The glue that makes all this happen is the one who is really in control – Almighty God.** It’s so refreshing to know that the possessor of the TV clicker is not ultimately in control! **Amen.**

~ Bob Barnes

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

