

Aiding and Abetting

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.—I Corinthians 3:6

I recently served on a jury where the judge gave us instructions about aiding and abetting. The judge told us that no matter how insignificant the support was, if the person knew of the intent to commit a crime and supported those carrying out the crime he was guilty of the crime.

This made me think of the Christian life and how, *in a good sense*, we are aiding and abetting the things we do to support others in bringing glory to Christ. We have part in the final outcome of their labor to bring glory to God. Sometimes we are even unaware of the assistance and support we are giving. We may give a simple word of encouragement, a listening ear, a helping hand, or guidance from the Bible.

Aiding and abetting can also work in a negative way. We can be guilty of aiding and abetting the enemy. When we do things that cause others to turn away from the Lord we are guilty of sin we have aided Satan. It may not be flagrant crimes but small things in support the devils work. It might be a word of discontent, gossip or backbiting, a mean spirit or action, or a negative attitude towards the things of the Lord. Giving ear to inappropriate conversation, losing one's temper, or blaming others for something that was not their fault can nullify our testimony. I am sure you can make your own list of things that might cause people to turn away from the Lord. We need to be careful not to give offense to others.

"Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blame:"—II Corinthians 6:3