

PARTNER

A partner, buddy, friend or similar can be a good thing. In marriage, your spouse is often described as *your partner for life*. But partners may also occur in business of form or another. Essentially, partners must work together in a close relationship to ensure the vitality of the business, marriage or other basis for the endeavor.



In the movie, *Paint Your Wagon*, a gold-miner by the name of Ben forms a partnership for property (a claim) with another man referred to simply as “Partner”. The partner is laid-up for a period of the movie due to an accident involving a wagon: the wagon rolled down a hill out-of-control, killing his brother, and leaving Partner with a broken leg and other injuries. During his convalescence, Partner shares equally in the gold found at their claim – although he is unable to work or dig as Ben does. Partner, unsure of why he is given an equal share, expresses his own concern that he is basically not *earning his keep*. Ben explains that their partnership is the basis for the unearned portion and, that while he has done some pretty terrible things in his life, “he has never gulled (deceived) a partner”. Ben continues that, on the basis of this partnership, Partner will need to avail himself to solace Ben in his melancholy state that visits periodically. The two form a partnership, not on the promise of gold, but on the trust that each will be honest and fair to the other – that is a partnership!

Though as partners, Ben and Partner have their moments when one has greater needs or wants than the other, or one has a different opinion than the other; yet, through much turmoil and some indifference, the two depend on each through *thick-and-thin*, ups and downs, good times and bad. Though the partnership does not last, the two depart on good terms and mutual respect. Somehow, the marked differences between them are offset by the common quest for gold and the developed trust in one another.

A partner is a good thing; and a life-long partner is even better; yet, the two must be sensitive to the needs and opinions of the other and be willing to make compromises in view of the basis of the relationship. Where love is the basis, whether God and man, a husband and wife, or two friends; a partnership has a much greater chance of succeeding, of lasting or staying the course.

"The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready."

- Henry David Thoreau

In a

WORD