

Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Ministry, Part 2

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the parental responsibility of a consistent ministry strategy.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 spiritual parental characteristics of a consistent ministry strategy.

Introduction: “A quality which is prominent in every leader is a strongly developed sense of dominant purpose and direction in life. He is one who knows with greater than average strength of conviction what he wants to get done and where he wants to go. The world stands aside to let pass the man who knows where he is going.”

[Ordway Tead, *The Art of Leadership, from Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1998, p.334-335]

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

- I. The spiritual parental characteristics of a **mother**. Vv.7-8
- II. The spiritual parental characteristics of a **servant**. Vv.9-10
- III. The spiritual parental characteristics of a **father**. Vv.11-12

I. The spiritual parental characteristics of a **mother. Vv.7-8**

A. The example of a mother. V.7

B. The endearment of a mother. V.8

1. Displays an importation of sacrificial love. V.8a
Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, **16** to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
2. Displays an importation of saving Gospel. V.8b (**1 Thessalonians 3:1**)
Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, **16** to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
3. Displays an importation of serving lifestyle. V.8c
2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.
Philippians 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
4. Displays an importation of endearing relationship. V.8d
1 Corinthians 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*.
1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.
Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

II. The spiritual parental characteristics of a servant. Vv.9-10

A. The effort of a servant on display. V.9a

(**Philippians 4:15-16: Acts 18:1-4 in Corinth; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9**)

The labor that an artisan undertook did not guarantee good income, and for that reason the apostles suffered deprivation despite his abilities.

“If Hock is correct, the main venue for this preaching was the workplace where Paul made and sold tents.” The manual labor and the preaching of the gospel of God were integrated. [**Gene L. Green, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letters to the Thessalonians*, p.131.**]

B. The evangelism of a servant on display. V.9b

Romans 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

The good news from God which Paul preached included these truths:

1. the authority and truthfulness of Scripture
2. the deity of Christ
Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
3. the sinfulness of mankind
Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
4. Christ's death and resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:4-5 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.
5. salvation by God's grace through faith alone
Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

C. The example of a servant. V.10

1. The saints were a witness. V.10a

Numbers 35:30 `Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not *sufficient* testimony against a person for the death *penalty*.

Deuteronomy 17:6 "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Deuteronomy 19:5 "as when *a man* goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies-- he shall flee to one of these cities and live;

2 Corinthians 13:1 This *will be* the third *time* I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

2. The sender was a witness. V.10b

- D. The ethics of a servant. V.10c
1. (Adverb/hosies) Devout believer – The act of holiness of manner, this speaks of the way people conformed to what was ordained by or permitted by the deity. (attitude and aptitude towards a deity)
 2. (Adverb/diakaios) Just behavior – This term described the conduct which conforms to both divine and human laws. (Attitude and aptitude toward man)
 3. (Adverb/amemptos) Blameless behavior – Paul and his companions by these character traits acted in conformity with both God’s law and human law while in Thessalonica.

III. The spiritual parental characteristics of a father. Vv.11-12

- A. The example of a father. V.11
1. The responsibility of exhortation. V.11a
Exhorting (parakaleo) aiding, directing, instructing.
 2. The responsibility of comfort. V.11b
Encouraging (paramutheomai) comfort and consolation.
 3. The responsibility of charging. V.11c
Imploring (manturomenoi) testifying, witnessing, martyr.
- B. The endgame of a Father. V.12
1. To charge his children to live worthy lives for God. V.12a (**Colossians 2:6**)
Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
 2. To charge his children to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives. V.12b
Luke 17:21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."
Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 3. To charge his children to live for the glory of God.
Psalms 73:24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory.
1 Peter 5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.
Revelation 7:16-17 "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; **17** "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."