



1 Thessalonians 2:7-12  
From Sermon 10.10.21

Read *1 Thessalonians 2:7-12*

Review from Sunday's sermon: God the Holy Spirit has Paul continue outlining biblical leadership to the Thessalonians. We are reminded that he is not engaged in worldly bragging, but conveying to them what kind of leaders they should find to replace him. This section is so very practical to us today, because biblical leadership is so lacking in the Church. Many otherwise quality church leaders are leaving the ministry in droves these days, or young godly men are not entering the ministry at all.

1. What two traits are common in every good leader (secular or Christian)? Character and Ability.

1a. List a few sub-categories of virtues under each of those two main traits also. Various Answers. Character: faithfulness, integrity, humility.... Ability: Spiritual gift, education, talent, ...

Study Guide Homework: Study Guide Questions 2 & 3 (page 17)

2. What metaphor did Paul use to picture his ministry "style" in verses 7-9, and what words and phrases did he use to elaborate on this image? That of Spiritual Mothering (Even though Paul was a man. Note: he's not referring to the women in the Church, but a needed characteristic in the male leadership the Church.) He used words and phrases like: gentle, affection, nursing, dear, & labor.  
See also *Galatians 4:19*

3. What different metaphor did Paul employ in verses 10-12? What details did he then use to explain and complete the picture? That of a Spiritual Father. Here, he used terms like: witness (modeled), exhort (coaching, teaching, pushing), charged (motivate), & walk worthy (cultivate)  
See also *Ephesians 4:13-15 & 2 Timothy 2:2*

4. Again, this text points out the stark contrast between what the Bible requires of Elders/Pastors vs. what the current Church culture is requiring and doing. One huge irritant Charley pointed out is the practice of: "Do what I say, not what I do." [in both the church and the home] Discuss how this sinful philosophy is so opposite from God's design for leadership. Various answers and insights. Church leaders are to be above reproach. A congregation will reflect its leaders, just as kids will imitate their parents. See *1 Corinthians 4:15-16*

5. What can happen in a church that is strong on spiritual mothering, but weak or lacking in spiritual fathering? They can become an undisciplined bunch, allowing anything and everything in the Church in the name of love, inclusion, & peace. This was the problem in Corinth. See *1 Corinthians 5:1-6*

5a. What can happen in a church that has strong spiritual fathering, but weak or lacking spiritual mothering? They can lose sight of love and become cold and legalistic. See *Revelation 2:1-5*

6. Again, we see that, just as with physical parenting, spiritual parenting is no joke and a huge assignment. What are some ways you could support and pray for your spiritual leaders this week? Various personal answers and insights.