

Series – Sharing Yourself and your Faith

As a Father encourages his own children

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

A spiritual parent imparts the heart and power of Father God into every person he or she encounters

Paul speaks of being a spiritual parent as one:

Who shares the entrusted treasure of salvation – 2:1-4

Who sacrificially and gently gives life as a mother - 2:5-9

Today – Who shares as an example and guide as a father

I. Whose Walk is a picture of God's care 10

2 Corinthians 1:12 We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness^[a] and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you.

A. Seen by those around us and by God

We are witnesses – people are watching

We are reflections – God is our anchor and power

B. A Devout Walk toward God

Our behavior always comes from our relationship to God

A careful walk with our Father

C. An Upright Walk toward men

Matching our walk with our testimony – a child of God

Upright living is our best testimony

D. A Blameless Walk in our motivation

Not faultless in action but in intent *Acts 24:15-16*

II. Whose Words are an echo of God's care 11

Luke 6:45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

A. Known by the words we speak

Mighty in their impact *James 3:4-6*

B. Words that Exhort

Word - "paraclete" to come alongside, encourage

Picture – a father running alongside a child on bike

C. Words that Encourage

This word is normally translated "comfort"

Encouragement is action

father picking up fallen child and encouraging

D. Words that Charge "implore"

Words that inspire and challenge greater progress

Example: *Romans 12:1*

Help new believers by warnings and visions of best.

E. Words of deep love and concern – as a Father

1 Corinthians 4:15 For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.

Authoritative but in an affectionate way

In tenderness and love – tell the truth

III. Whose goal is a reflection of God's care

A. A life worthy of God's love

Ephesians 4:1-3 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Humility and gentleness

Patient, forgiving -united in love

B. A life responding to the Call of God

God is calling us always to salvation, holiness =faith

God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful. 5:24

C. A life fit for the Kingdom of God

"Thy will be done" yielded to God in every area

Under His realm of power

D. A life reflecting His glory *2 Corinthians 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:10*

How can we reach others as a "father"

1. Reflect the love God, our Father, gave us.

2 Corinthians 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.

2. Live a life of integrity by the power of God

3. Speak words of encouragement, comfort and courage

4. Challenge new believers to be all they can be in Christ

5. Reflect the glory God has shed in your life