

## “Parents in the Faith”

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Nigel Unrau, Lead Pastor - December 18, 2022

### 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

<sup>7</sup> But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. <sup>8</sup> Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. <sup>9</sup> For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; <sup>11</sup> just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—<sup>6</sup> nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:8

<sup>8</sup> Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

**A. Spiritual development is best accomplished through loving leadership.**

1. There ought to be a spiritual humility rather than an air of superiority.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:9

<sup>9</sup> For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

2. There ought to be spiritual integrity so that nothing disgraces the gospel.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:10

<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

### 2 Peter 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup> But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; <sup>3</sup> and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

### 1 Corinthians 9:22-27

<sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

B. Spiritual **leadership** is best **expressed** through the temperament of a **parent**.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:7

<sup>7</sup> But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.

1. As a **mother**: **nourishing** and **assuring** her children's **faith**.
2. As a **father**: **encouraging** and **urging** his children's **faithfulness**.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

### 1 Corinthians 4:14-15

<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

### 2 Corinthians 11:28-29

<sup>28</sup> Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

### Philippians 1:27-28

<sup>27</sup> Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; <sup>28</sup> in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

### Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

### Colossians 1:9-14

<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:12

<sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God **who calls you into His own kingdom and glory**.

### Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The **goal** of spiritual parents is to grow **spiritual infants** into **fully mature believers**.