

The Profile of A Godly Father - 1 Thessalonians 2

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Intro

Everyone has an impact from their father's

Most people who are committed to their faith at Church see the same patterns in their children and see that religious discussion in the home increases.

Simply attending Church doesn't make good children! "I take my children to church because my father took me to Church".

How does a father influence his children?

What characterizes a father such that he has a large impact on the spiritual life of his children?

Context

1 Thessalonians 2 The leadership principles that Paul used to bring people to Christ and evangelize.

Take the leadership qualities that Paul provides here and apply them to the Father.

v8

"Having such a fond affection for you"

"dear" Greek - a term of tenderness and endearment. to feel oneself drawn to something or someone.

Macho-men are not masculine. Emotionless men are boys.

Luke 15 - the father embraces his son, he shows affection toward his son that has just come home from being a shame to him.

How to really love your child * focused attention (date your children). Spend one-on-one time with your child. * Eye contact. When you're dating wife you communicate love by looking into their eyes. Do the same for your children. *

Purposeful touch. The wrestling on the floor, the hug, the squeeze on the arm, the pat on the back.

Discipline alone breeds obedience, but coupled with love develops a life long friendship.

This passage communicates the integrity and realness of fathers. They are not phoney's.

“impart to you not only the Gospel”

Good fathers communicate the Gospel to their children. You are making a deposit when you share the gospel and disciple your children.

“impart” Greek - “metadidom” (it carries the idea of making a contribution, sharing fully).

Fathers should teach their children about finances and what God has to say about them.

Children want their fathers to laugh with them.

“Our own lives”

We didn't just titillate your intellect. We poured our lives to you. We gave you our lives.

“Children find great security in finding us open and vulnerable.” -
Chuck Swindoll

v9-10

“Working night and day”

This demonstrates a healthy, biblical work ethic. Have a strong work-ethic.

2 Thes 3:8

Ecc 9:10

Eph 4:28

See all passages in proverbs regarding work

“how devoutly and blamelessly we behaved toward you”

This demonstrates spiritual authenticity.

Children see right through people that are being plastic. It is refreshing for children to see their father being authentic and have a heart after God.

This is a calling for a father to teach their children. Not in the fashion of a lecture, but using opportunities to teach their children as they go through daily life. This happens when watching TV, driving, cleaning the house, playing.

A Godly life style has little effect on children when compared to the attitude we have.

“influenza” the origin of the word “influence”. We must be contagious to our children. Our attitudes are very powerful.

“mimetai” To imitate, mimick

1 Cor 11:1 1 Cor 4:16

v11-12

“exhorting and encouraging”

A father encourages his children. What comes out of your mouth tells of what is in your heart. What you say to your children shows what your feelings are toward them and what you think of them.

“exhorting” Greek (parakaleo) - to speak alongside another person.

Encourage, exhort, admonish.

“encouraging” Greek (paramutheomai) - To council or give advice

A father should be a coach to their children, but this should be balanced with grace and good council and encouragement.

Positive influence should be threefold compared to any negative reinforcement applied to child.

Application

- Be consistent
- Be affectionate
- Be real