



## FATHERING

### 1. Paul's Model- 1Thes 2:7-11; 1 Cor. 4:14-21

- 2 Elements
  - a. While Paul compares himself to a nurse or mother when he speaks of treasuring his converts, he compares himself to a father when he speaks of teaching them
  - b. Wrong mothering wants to keep the children **tied** to her apron strings and be fearful of ever leaving the house.
  - c. Wrong fathering wants to keep the children at home for his own benefits of **control** or convenience.

### 2. There is a “Spiritual Mothering” that Contributes to the Birthing and Building of Disciples

- 1Thes. 2:7-8, “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”
- **Birthing and Feeding Babies to Avert Fatal Termination** - 1 Cor 4:15, “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
- **Nurturing and Gathering Babies for Family Togetherness** - 1 Thes.1:5–6: “For our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord.”
- **Loving and Sacrificing for Fruitful Generational Transfer** - 1 Thes. 2:8 “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were delighted—we were eager—to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own souls, because you had become very dear to us.”

### 3. There is a “Spiritual Fathering” that Contributes to the Making and Maturing of Disciples

- **He Admonishes Considerately** - 1Cor. 4:14, “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.”
- **He Loves Compassionately** - 1Cor. 4:14, “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.”
- **He Reproduces Generationally** - 1Cor 4:15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- **He Models Consistently** - 1Cor 4:16-17a, “I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ...”
- **He Teaches Biblically** - 1Cor. 4:17, “That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.”
- **He Disciplines Fairly** - 1Cor 4:18-21, “Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?”

### 4. A Father must give you 4 things

- Teaching (Teach the principles)
- Training ( Show how to do it)
- Equipping (Impart any tools needed to get the job done)
- Sending ( Release and allow to grow)

### 5. It will cost the father 3 things

- Time
- Energy
- Money

## 6. Why father?

- A father leaves a spiritual inheritance
- A teacher just gives you knowledge
- It will shorten your time to get going in the ministry
- You can start where the father left off

## 7. Summary

**Fathering always costs the Father but it is worth the fruit of it**