

## HOW TO PARENT YOUR FAMILY AFTER GOD'S HEART 1 Corinthians 4:8-21

PARENTING IS A CHALLENGE—EVEN FOR AN APOSTLE!

### I. A REPRIMAND FOR ARROGANCE (v. 8)

- A. An attitude of superiority had developed. Paul uses irony to address it.
- B. This caustic language is intended to correct their prideful thinking by embarrassing them, exposing their exaggerated self-esteem.

Language here is similar to Jesus':

Revelations 3:16-19

*"<sup>16</sup>But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! <sup>17</sup>You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup>So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. <sup>19</sup>I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference."*

### II. AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY (vv. 9-13)

God hadn't placed even the apostles in a position the Corinthians claimed! He points out the contrast of attitudes in Corinthians and apostles: Pride vs. Humility.

- B. Corinthians saw themselves as special; Paul says he and the apostles are a "spectacle."
- B. Paul contrasts the apostles and himself with the Corinthians using stinging words soaked with sarcasm.
  - 1) **fools... "so wise in Christ"!**
  - 2) **weak... "strong"!**
  - 3) **dishonored... "honored"!**

C. His example of humility is genuine. He sets the record straight.

- 1) He faces physical deprivation (vv. 11-12a)
- 2) He faces social degradation (vv. 12b-13)

\*the "scum" (filth) of the world!

Parents—it is not enough to reprimand. Correction must be reinforced by a good example.

### III. A WARNING OF DISCIPLINE (vv. 14-21)

Discipline is best applied in the context of family.

A reminder: the gospel is the seed that gives spiritual life and brings one into God's family.

1 Peter 1:23

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."*

### PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE IN THIS TEXT:

- 1) Warning should precede action. (v. 14)
- 2) Discipline proceeds from love not authority. (v. 14)
- 3) Personal example validates correction. (v. 16)
- 4) Reinforcement solidifies values. (v. 17)
- 5) Trustworthy standards arise from Christ's truth. (v. 17)
- 6) Reminders are a normal part of the disciplinary process. (v. 17)
- 7) Consistency is essential. (v. 17)
- 8) Words must be matched with action. (v. 20)
- 9) Choices are part of learning, and so are consequences. (v. 21)

BECOMING A PARENT AFTER GOD'S HEART IS ATTAINABLE!

IT IS ALSO CRITICAL TO YOUR FAMILY'S LONG-TERM HAPPINESS.