



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Godly Parenting

Sunday, May 8, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Cor. 4:14-21

I. GODLY PARENTS *LOVINGLY WARN* CHILDREN OF SPIRITUAL DANGERS, 4:14, 17.

A. Paul did not desire *to shame* the Corinthians; but he desired to show them *the shame* in their behavior.

B. Paul desired to have a corrective influence over the Corinthians.

The Greek word *to admonish* (*noutheteo*) means, *to warn or counsel in terms of behavior*. Paul desired to *have a correcting influence on the Corinthians without invoking them to bitterness in the process*.

STAGES OF CHILD REARING

Ages

0-11 *Concrete Direction*

Disciplinary Stage (0-5)

Training Stage (6-11)

12-18 *Verbal Admonition*

19-up *Personal Convictions* (This is when parent and child are friends)

- 1. Correction must be done with compassion, 4:14; cf. Acts 20:31.**
- 2. Correction must be accompanied with instruction from God's Word, 4:17; cf Col. 3:16.**
- 3. Correction must be exercised with Christ-like consistency, 4:17.**

Godly parents seek to grow in their Bible study and in their relationship with God. Their growth in the Word and in their intimacy with God will benefit their children.

*A Prayer: “Lord show me something in Your Word that I can **live out** and **pass along** to my spiritual posterity .”*

II. GODLY PARENTS *IMITATE* CHRIST FOR CHILDREN TO EMULATE, 4:15-17.

A. Paul built on the established relationship with the Corinthians to call them to imitate him, 4:15.

1. The failure of parents to influence their children in a godly manner is often due to the parents failure to establish a solid relationship with them.

a. Parenting is much more than providing children with shelter, food and security, etc.

b. Parenting involves a “relationship.”

2. The establishment of a solid relationship with God and with others takes time, interest and effort.

B. Paul referred to himself as the Corinthian’s father to exhort them to conform to his behavior, 4:15-16.

1. Paul offers himself as an example to be followed, 4:16; cf. Phi 3:17; 4:9; 1 Thess 1:6-9.

2. Paul lived as an example for the Corinthians to imitate, cf, 4:11-13.

Point: Paul desired to reproduce the pattern of Christlikeness in the Corinthians.

C. Paul called the Corinthians to remember his ways and teachings in Christ, 4:17.

A Prayer: “Lord, help me to live like Christ by keeping me from succumbing to persecution, pressures or pleasures that would cause reproach on Your Name and that would turn my children from the faith.”

III. GODLY PARENTS *LOVINGLY DISCIPLINE* THEIR CHILDREN, 4:18-21.

A. Paul confronted the proud, 4:18.

B. Paul confronted the powerful, 4:19-20.

C. Paul corrected in love, 4:21.

A Prayer: “Lord, help me to boldly confront and loving discipline my children—not fearing them but fearing you—to gently call them to repentance.

IV. APPLICATION

A. To children

- 1. Listen to your parents, Pro 1:8-9.**
- 2. Do not despise your parents’ correction, Pro 3:11-13.**
- 3. Make God’s Word key to your decision making, Pro 3:19-22.**

B. To parents

- 1. Seek to have a corrective influence over your children.**
- 2. Live a life that can be mimicked as a pattern for others to follow for God’s glory.**
- 3. Remind your children of Christ’s ways as taught in Scripture.**
- 4. Lovingly correct and boldly confront with gentleness.**

BUILDING A BRIDGE FOR HIM
by Will Allen Dromgoole (1860-1934)

An old man, traveling a lone highway,
Came at evening cold and gray.
To a chasm deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held no fears for him.
But he turned when reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” cried a fellow pilgrim near,
“You're wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way.
“You have crossed the chasm deep and wide;
Why build a bridge at eventide?”

The builder raised his old gray head;
“Good friend, on the path I have come,” he said
“There followed after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.”
“This stream which has been as naught to me,
To that fair haired boy may a pit fall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim –
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”