

The Character of a Spiritual Father (1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

- Paul described himself: spiritual leader & teacher, servant (3:5) a farmer (3:6) God's fellow worker (3:9) builder (3:10) a galley slave, servant" (4:1) steward
- Now Paul sees himself as a spiritual servant and as a spiritual father to them.
- He's sentiment of a father to his children is the same as John's in 3 John 4
- He clear motive in challenging / confronting them is love not shame

I. His Passion for them (4:14,15)

- Paul's intentions V.14 "I do not write these things to shame you"
- His purpose "I warn *you*"
- How Paul viewed them: "as my beloved children"
- V15 might have 10 000 instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers
- Paul's love for the Corinthians was that of a spiritual father

II. His Purpose for Them (4:16, 17)

- Paul motivates the Corinthians with his love, to vs. 16 "imitate me."
- Paul was not being proud, his example was not one of pride but of humility
- Super apostles were using Peter, Apollos to turn Corinthians against Paul
- Paul's example: contrary to these false teachers, it lead to humility not pride
- Paul sent Timothy to Corinthians to remind them of his ways in Christ (17)

III. Provoke them to Repent (vs. 18-21)

- Paul's challenge Now some are puffed up...though I were not coming to you
- Paul will come & confront these false servants with their emptiness (v.19)
- True godliness will manifest itself in transformed lives not empty philosophy
- **Vs 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**