

Intro: Close relations to motivate several relations: READ WLC Q&A 125

Main Point of Text: Paul appeals to his special pastoral relationship with the Corinthian Church to get them to receive his words seriously and follow him sincerely.

Sermon Point: *Please follow me.*

Move 1: *You should expect loving leadership.*

LC: “both to teach them in all duties towards their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them ...”: responsibility to lesson load with care like for sons and daughters:

- Natural: *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* (Eph. 6:4). Deliberate, careful effort looking for willing response.
- Ministry (Including Government):
 - 1 Thes. 2:7-9: ministers like nurses cherishing children; affectionally desirous/shared own lives
 - *As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,* (1 Thes. 2:11) Proverbs 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5-11. LC: “according to ... several relations”
 - *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,* (Gal. 4:19)

Move 2: *Your leaders should expect loving followers.*

LC: “and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents”: Good work/good attitude as if for moms/dads. 1 Cor. 4:14-16:

- Vs. 14: “these things”:
 - Their pride/contention: vss. 1-8 (1:11, 2:1, 3:1-3);
 - Minister's humiliation in hard work of parents on their behalf: vss. 9-13.
- Vs. 14: “warn”: admonish/exhort. Greek: “neutheteo”, “Nouthetic Counseling”. Disciple. Warn:
 - Vss. 16-17 (following him instead of others)
 - Vss. 18-21 (he will come in person to enforce)

Paul appeals to his personal investment in them becoming Christians; concerned they grow up as good sons:

- Vs. 14: “my beloved sons” “not to shame you”
- Vs. 15: thousands of teachers, only one father, “I have begotten you” (1 Cor. 3:6; 9:1; 15:1).
- He needs to correct them; they do themselves a favor if they honor him as their “spiritual father”.
- Paul has authority; but makes personal pastoral appeal to follow: Vs. 16, “urge/comfort/beseech”

Conclusion: *Please follow me.*