



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Restoration Series_“Fatherly Care”

DATE: October 6, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

1 Corinthians 4:14-21, *Philippians 2:20-22*, *1 Corinthians 8:7-13*, *1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1*, *1 Corinthians 13:5*, *Galatians 6:1-5*, *Philippians 2:3-5*, *1 Thessalonians 5:12-15*, *2 Thessalonians 3:9*, *1 Corinthians 15:34*, *50*, *3 John 4*, *Philemon 10*, *1 Timothy 1:2*, *2 Corinthians 1:23*, *2 Corinthians 13:10*

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 Corinthians 4:14-21]

¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 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. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 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. ¹⁸ Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹ What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 4:14–21.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

This section concludes the front end of 1 Corinthians with v21 and Paul will transition to “further information may have reached the apostle when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived from Corinth (16:17) and supplemented the Corinthians’ letter to Paul with their own reports concerning the church. Paul first turns to the ethical issues in these reports (chaps. 5–6) before taking up the questions they posed to him in writing (chaps. 7–16).”

Alan F. Johnson, *1 Corinthians*, vol. 7, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 2004), 85–86.

Overview of 1 Corinthians 4:14-21: “Finally, to conclude this long section on God’s view of ministries and the ministry (1 Cor 3:5–4:21), Paul gives the Corinthians a fatherly admonition (4:14–17) and then alerts them that he will soon come and sternly challenge the boastful perpetrators of divisions if they do not repent (4:18–21).”

Alan F. Johnson, *1 Corinthians*, vol. 7, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 2004), 83.

Parental Language: “By changing to this image of *father* of the Corinthians, Paul is moving from a description of the ministries of God to his own role and relationship to the Corinthians. Paul planted the church: *in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel* (v. 15).”

Alan F. Johnson, *1 Corinthians*, vol. 7, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 2004), 83.

“Letters of blame” could be written either to shame those who had acted dishonorably or (less harshly) to admonish them. Except in the most extreme circumstances, philosophers preferred to admonish rather than to rebuke and thereby humiliate. Moralists generally emphasized that they admonished people only because they cared for them, sometimes describing their concern in parental terms.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 4:14.

OUTLINE:

I. A FATHERLY INTENT (V14-16)

A. Philosophers and teachers in Corinth would demand respect...

1. "You have countless guides in Christ"- **GUIDES**

- a) "**Guides in Christ**" Paul uses the term *paidagogos* (παιδαγωγός, 3807), "a guide," or "**guardian**" or "trainer of boys," lit., "a child-leader" (pais, "a boy, or child," ago, "to lead"), "a tutor," is translated "instructors"
- b) *But note the paidagogos was not the instructor of the child; he exercised a general supervision over him and was responsible for his moral and physical well-being.*
- c) *Paul could also be talking about the general relationships within the body as well that are productive in encouragement and co laboring, but lack deep accountability*

B. Paul proclaims the difference between He and the philosophers...

1. "You do not have many fathers"- **SPIRITUAL FATHER**

- a) *one who, as a preacher of the gospel and a teacher, stands in a "father's" place, caring for his spiritual children*
- b) *Paul's intent here is to draw from the relationship a special*
 - (1) Place of responsibility to that child in the Lord
 - (2) Place of responsibility before God

2. (v15) "I became your father through the gospel"- **BY MEANS OF GOSPEL**

- a) *Paul understood that those whom God used to lead others to a saving faith were as called upon through life to continue to challenge the young believer to greater biblical understanding*

- b) *God has given a special place to those who evangelize to also teach truth*

C. Paul intends to draw on this God given role to challenge his spiritual children

1. "I urge you to be imitators of me" - **IMITATORS**
 - a) **Ephesians 5:1- (Imitate God)** *As a child of God we are to imitate Him*
 - b) **Hebrews 6:12- (Imitate His undershepherds)** *We as followers of Christ should follow the lead of other Spirit-filled, God appointed leaders*
 - c) **1 Thessalonians 1:5-7- (Imitating affects others)** *When we see the Spirit at work in those we imitate we begin to parent other new converts as the spirit in us will produce obedience and fruit for our labor*

II. A FATHERLY INVESTMENT (V17)

A. Pauls investment was Timothy as he could not be there at that point...

1. "That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord"
 - a) *Timothy was imitating Christ by following Paul's teaching*
 - b) *Timothy was very close to Paul and they loved God and one another deeply*
 - c) *Timothy was challenged by Paul to lead*
 - d) *Timothy was given the opportunity to lead and was representing Paul and his reputation as a leader*
 - e) *The Corinthians need Paul's investment to grow as many times we need to see the word in action/modeled before us*

B. Pauls investment in the people of God was consistent in every church...

1. "to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church."

a) *Timothy could emulate Paul because he had seen and heard Paul at every stop say and do the same things*

b) *Paul never deviated from the plan God had given him, he just lived out the word before them*

= Spiritual Parents need to be imitable; be what God has called you To be before their eyes

= God has empowered you to be different/seperate from the world so they may know the truth through your life

=Empower them to make a difference as Paul did

III. A FATHERLY INJUNCTION (V18-21)

INJUNCTION: an authoritative warning or order

A. A SPIRITUAL PARENT MUST BE WILLING TO GO BOLD TO OUR SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

1. (v18) "*Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.*"

a) Paul was willing to use his influence to call them out... as he was aware of the sin in the Church

b) The people in Corinth had become very bold in his absence

2. (v19) "*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.*"

a) When Paul comes he will find out what was said

b) He would determine where they stood (with him or against him)

c) He would determine if they had any place of leadership and deal with them

3. (v20) "*For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.*"

a) The Holy Spirit's blessings and power in ministry tells us what is God and what is not and Paul would point this out once he arrived

- b) Talk is cheap Spiritual parents; show them Jesus and His ways

4. (v21) “What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?”

- a) Paul was basically letting their behavior determine how he would come
- b) If they continued to act out and cause division he would exercise church discipline (as found in Matthew 18)

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----

Church,

It is important that we live the word in our daily lives. The word preached and taught is not just for evangelism as when the Lord creates life He places these newborn Spiritual babies into the arms of the mature believers to care for a guide, but as we have seen not just in a moral sense but in a Spiritual parenting sense. Will you commit to share and share life with those whom God places in your life?

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

MY PERSONAL STUDY NOTES:
