

Spiritual Parental Nurturing
1 Corinthians 4:14-21

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I. Heed the warning. 1 Corinthians 4:14-15

As a Spiritual parent, Paul loved these Christians, but he also had a responsibility to speak _____ to them.

- If you share the Gospel with someone and they get saved; even though others planted and watered and God gives the increase; you will probably feel like a spiritual _____ to them.

II. Imitate a mature Christian. 1 Corinthians 4:16-17

The English word _____ comes directly from the Greek word that is translated as "*imitators*" in **Ephesians 5:1**.

- We will reflect the things, the people, and the culture we truly _____ in; just like the moon reflects the sun.

My resemblance to my Heavenly Father is more evident as I dedicate my time and my whole life to Him and His _____. **1 Corinthians 11:1**

- "**Remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church**" shows us that Paul was not asking more of the Christians at Corinth than what he _____ from all believers.

III. Sin of pride during Paul's absence. 1 Corinthians 4:18-21

Church leaders are in a real battle with the world, the enemy and those who seek the _____ of everything God has built in the local church.

- **James 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the _____, we shall live and do this or that."**

"The final test of wisdom is power; the word of the cross not only has the power to mentally illuminate, but also to morally _____." (Guzik)

1. Step 1: A person _____ the Gospel (understands the message by the power of the Holy Spirit). **Romans 10:8-10**
2. Step 2: Because a person hears the Gospel and realizes they are a sinner in need of a Savior; they confess _____ as the Lord God.
3. Step 3: This verbal confession is backed up by belief which means to believe, yes; but it also means to make a _____.

IV. Conclusion.

There is not a human alive who is not under some kind of _____.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **1 Corinthians 4:14-15**. Warren Wiersbe said, "Paul had already compared the local church to a family. But now the emphasis is on the minister as a "spiritual father." How does a Church leader function as a spiritual parent?
1 Peter 5:2-4, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Hebrews 13:7
2. *How does a father show tenderness to his children? In what way was Paul like a father to the Corinthian church? In what way were the Corinthians like children? (Wiersbe)*
3. *Why must a Christian be careful when correcting a brother or sister in Christ?*
Galatians 6:1-2, Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 7:4-5
4. Read **1 Corinthians 4:16-17**. The statement was made during the sermon, "*We will reflect the things, the people, and the culture we truly believe in; just like the moon reflects the sun.*" Do you agree with that statement? Why should we imitate mature Christians?
Ephesians 5:1, Acts 11:26, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17
5. Read **James 4:13-16**. Discuss the importance of staying flexible to the Lord's will for our lives.
Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 25:4-5, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 19:21
6. Read **Romans 10:8-10** and discuss the three steps of this passage from point III. of the sermon note sheet.