

**JUNE 15, 2025**

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing**  
**The Book of 1 Corinthians – Part 4, Chapter 4**  
**Godly Leaders & Godly Fathers/Parents**

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological and missiological of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church so that we in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church can keep the 'CHURCH LIVE & GROWING'. As we have made our way through the Book of Acts we have stopped at various points to delve into other books of the New Testament that seem to have been written at that specific point in time. We just completed study of Acts 19 and it seems that at this point in the 30 plus year time span that the book of Acts covers, that Paul took the time to **write to the Church in Corinth.**



In the past two messages we discovered that the Church in Corinth which Paul and his DreamTeam of Silas, Timothy, Aquilla, Priscilla & Apollos had spent about a year and a half planting churches, leading to salvation, baptized and given basic discipleship to a large number of believers. After he and Aquilla & Priscilla had left and went to Ephesus it appears that the cosmopolitan atmosphere in Corinth of debauchery, hyper-sexuality, materialism, and prideful academia had caused them to

become **Defiled, Divided, Disgraced, Deluded**, in a **State of Disrepair**, and today a **Directionless Church in need of Direction & Discipline.**

Paul, the model Evangelist, Church Planter, Pastor, Discipler, Encourager, Disciplinarian, Spiritual Physician and Building Consultant responded to those problems with some prescriptions to help with the spiritual sickness. He also **REMINDS** them of their **HIGH CALLING TO...**

1. Be Holy
  2. Develop a Fellowship Of Harmony and Love
  3. Glorify God.
  4. Have the Mind of Christ.
  5. Be God's Sanctuary & Temple
- And today in Chapter 4 we find the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Calling:*
6. Honor and Respect Faithful Spiritual Leaders
  7. Live as Obedient Children of our Heavenly Father.

Today we celebrate Father's Day. Today's Bible Text is taking from 1 Corinthians 4:1-21 and though it discusses several issues which can be applied to our Father's Day theme. In this section Paul continues to address the Corinth Church that is **Defiled, Divided, Disgraced, Deluded, in a State of Disrepair, and Directionless in need of Direction & Discipline.** Paul puts on another metaphorical hat (in addition to his Evangelist, Church Planter, Pastor, Discipler, Encourager, Disciplinarian, Spiritual Physician and Building Consultant hat) this is the hat of a Father/Leader who proceeds to remind them of their need for **Direction** and **Discipline** in order to live up to their calling as '*Beloved Children*' (vs. 14).

This phrase '*Beloved Children*' opens the door for us to parallel this chapter to both a

### **Godly Leader In The Church & A Godly Father/Parent In The Home.**

As we have discovered from the previous chapters the Corinth Church had no shortage of people and influencers who wanted to feed into and guide them in what to believe and how to live. The problem was that these guides/influencers were like a lot of social media guides and influencers today – most are charlatans or people who don't really care or love their 'followers', they just want to be seen, heard, & 'liked' or 'followed'.

Church Leaders and Godly Parents alike need to be aware of their responsibility and privilege to be more like 'fathers/parents' than guides or friends.

When we get to verses 15,16 this chart will become more clear.

GUIDES VS FATHERS - 1 CORINTHIANS 4:15-16	
GUIDES	FATHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GIVE INFORMATION</li><li>• MOTIVATED BY ILLUMINATION</li><li>• GUIDES WANT FOLLOWERS</li><li>• GUIDES RELY ON RESOURCES</li><li>• GUIDES GIVE KNOWLEDGE</li><li>• GUIDES TELL YOU WHAT TO DO</li><li>• GUIDES ARE TEMPORARY</li><li>• GUIDES ARE MANY</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GIVE THEMSELVES</li><li>• MOTIVATED BY TRANSFORMATION</li><li>• FATHERS WANT SONS AND DAUGHTERS</li><li>• FATHERS RELY ON RELATIONSHIP</li><li>• FATHERS GIVE WISDOM</li><li>• FATHERS GO WITH YOU</li><li>• FATHERS ARE LIFE LONG</li><li>• FATHERS ARE FEW</li></ul>

<https://westsidepb.org/project/fathers-day-2023-the-godly-father-1-corinth-414-17/>

## **Godly Leaders & Godly Fathers/Parents:**

### **1. Are to be Trustworthy, Faithful Servants and Stewards who are Respected & Obeyed.**

**1 Corinthians 4: 1-13...**<sup>1</sup>*Let a man regard us in this manner, as SERVANTS of Christ and STEWARDS of the mysteries of God.* <sup>2</sup>*In this case, moreover, it is REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT ONE BE FOUND TRUSTWORTHY/FAITHFUL.* <sup>3</sup>*But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.* <sup>4</sup>*For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.* <sup>5</sup>*Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.* <sup>6</sup>*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.* <sup>7</sup>*For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?* <sup>8</sup>*You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.* <sup>9</sup>*For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a*

*spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. <sup>11</sup> To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; <sup>12</sup> and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.*

Paul opens by clarifying the roles of a true godly leader/father. Sadly, the Corinth Church had a wrong understanding of who and how their leaders should be responded to. Paul sets them straight with some godly **Direction:**

#### **Leader/Parents are:**

- Servants of God (4:1)
- Stewards or Managers of the Mysteries of God (4:1,2)
- To be Judged Only by God (4:3-5)
- Rewarded by God (4:5)

The Church as well as families need to have the proper understanding of the role of their leaders. God has set up a pattern of godly servant leaders/parents who are responsible to God for their actions and will be rewarded or judged based on their actions in their leader/parent roles. When both the church and the family understand the role and responsibility of their leaders,

they can then be faithful in respecting and obeying that leadership and the result will be a positive outcome for all involved and most importantly, God will be glorified.

#### **Godly Leaders & Godly Fathers/Parents:**

##### **2. Have the Responsibility To Lead By Example in Godliness.**

**1 Corinthians 4: 14-21**...<sup>14</sup> *I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as MY BELOVED CHILDREN.* <sup>15</sup> *For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your FATHER through the gospel.* <sup>16</sup> *Therefore I exhort you, BE IMITATORS OF ME.* <sup>17</sup> *For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will REMIND YOU OF MY WAYS WHICH ARE IN CHRIST, just as I teach everywhere in every church.* <sup>18</sup> *Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.* <sup>19</sup> *But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power.* <sup>20</sup> *For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.* <sup>21</sup> *What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?*

#### **Leaders/Fathers/Parents:**

##### **1. Lead with Love**

(Connect before you correct; Beloved has to be louder than Behave; Guilt says 'I made a mistake, Shame says 'I am a mistake')

## **Triple A Fatherhood:** (*Jason Jordon*)

- Affection- *Am I physically showing my children love?* (Tone, Touch and Tenderness)
- Affirmation- *Am I reassuring my children?* (Time and Words)
- Authority- *Am I reflecting God's authority properly?*

### **Leaders/Fathers/Parents:**

#### **2. Advise/Admonish with Authority**

Bill Maher is a secular comedian and late show host, who surprisingly gives some very wise directions. He was asked once "Are you and your father friends?" He responded "Friends? We are friends now, but while growing up I didn't need my Dad to be my friend, I needed him to be my Dad... Dad's are suppose to be the ones who tell you right from wrong."

> Friendship with your children is the late blooming fruit from being a godly directional father.

### **Leaders/Fathers/Parents:**

#### **3. Disciple by Demonstration**

A Godly Leader is a Servant Leader who leads by example.

A Godly Father/Parent leads by loving, consistent actions. You are the most influential person in your child's/family's life.

Godly Leaders & Godly Fathers/Parents learn and follow from their Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. If we recognize and accept that we are loved, cared for and being disciplined and discipled by God, we can then follow that example in our leadership at Home, at Work, at Church or anywhere.

### **Let me close with a Father's Day Specific Direction:**

#### **Godly Dads:** (taken from Sandy Adams)

- He warms his kids with love.
- He warns them with sound advice.
- He wants God's best for them, and urges them on and
- He walks before them, an example for them to imitate.

**A good dad warms, warns, wants, and walks...**

**So,**

Keep warming them with your love.

Keep warning them with truth and wisdom.

Keep wanting for them all that God desires....and

Keep walking before them as a godly example!

This is good advice for all of us here today, wouldn't you agree?

**In Summary Let Me Remind You Of Our Calling:**

**Honor and Respect Faithful Spiritual Leaders**  
**Live as Obedient Children of our Heavenly Father.**

**Invitation & Commitment Time**