

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Living in the Light of His Return: The Church Family

⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. ⁸ Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; ¹¹ just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, ¹² so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

I. Love of a Mother (v.7-8) – ⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. ⁸ Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

II. Example of an Older Brother (v.9) – ⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

III. Training of a Father (v.10-11) – ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; ¹¹ just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children,

IV. Walking Together as a Family (v.12) – ¹² so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some things that come to mind when you think about the meaning of “family”?

2. Observation Question(s):

- How is the church like a family?
- What are some emotions that you think Paul is dealing with as he writes this passage?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- The opponents of Christianity in Thessalonica accused Paul of being a “fly by night” teacher with no real concern for the church there.
- How does his use of the “nursing mother” metaphor debunk this view?
- How does the metaphor of his being a diligent “father” debunk this view?
- What does it mean to “walk worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory”?
- What does “walking worthy” look like based on the example of Paul in the previous verses?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- How can you develop the kind of love for your church that Paul has for the Thessalonians?
- What prevents you from doing so?

5. Application Question(s):

- How can you “walk worthy” this week?

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