

“LEARNING LIFE’S LESSONS”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. ¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

1 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸ Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.

1 Corinthians 4:19-21

¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?.

Paternal Care

Paternal Care

Warning vs. Shame

1 Corinthians 4:14

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

NKJV

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

¹¹ as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, ¹² that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Paternal Care

Warning vs. Shame

Guardians vs. Fathers

1 Corinthians 4:15

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Matthew 7:9

Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Paternal Care

Warning vs. Shame

Guardians vs. Fathers

Walk vs. Talk

1 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Walk vs. Talk

Metaphor—child Imitating his father

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also
imitate Christ.

Walk vs. Talk

Metaphor—child Imitating his father

Message - imitating Christ

1 Peter 2:21-22

²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

1 Peter 2:23

who, when He was reviled,
did not revile in return; when
He suffered, He did not
threaten, but committed
Himself to Him who judges
righteously;

1 Peter 2:24-25

²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Paternal Care

Proper Teaching

1 Corinthians 4:17

For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Titus 2:1

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

Paternal Care

Proper Teaching

Personal Accountability

1 Corinthians 4:18-19

¹⁸ Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

Paternal Care

Proper Teaching

Personal Accountability

Power of God

1 Corinthians 4:20

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

1 Corinthians 2:4

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Paternal Care

Proper Teaching

Personal Accountability

Power of God

Preferred teaching style

1 Corinthians 4:21

What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

Preferred teaching style

Hard way

Mark 11:15

So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

Mark 11:16-17

¹⁶ And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. ¹⁷ Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" "

Mark 11:18

And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.

Preferred teaching style

Hard way

Easy way

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”