

## A Father's Responsibilities to His Children

(1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

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

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power.

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

### 1. Live a life of warning (14)

- purpose (not to shame but to warn)
- A godly life is a life of fearing God and keeping His commandments (blessings/curses; garden of Eden)
- A father's job is not to make it up as he goes along – it is to know and follow God's Word.

### 2. Live a life of teaching (15)

- a father's key function is to be a teacher

### 3. Live a life of example (16)

- Be worthy of imitation
- Solomon's words vs. Solomon's actions

### 4. Live a life of reminding (17)

- No one gets it the first time, and things piece together over time

### 5. Live a life of leading (18-21)

- Humble, but rightful confidence
- Gentle if possible, authoritative when necessary