

The Heart of the Believer

1Thessalonians 2:7-12

We left Paul last week as he explained what a leader & servant of Christ is to avoid. Paul a perfect example of what God expects of a leader & servant of Christ. Four things Paul tells us to avoid in ministry or in life all together.

1 Don't deceive **:3**-never be dishonest **2** Avoid being a man pleaser **:4** but instead pleasing God. **3** Avoid greed **:5**-not serving for self-enrichment. **4** Don't be controlling-authoritarian **:6**-my way or highway kind.

Now in the next six verses Paul lays out 4 things to embrace.

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

First have compassion, be a defender of the weak, underdog, little guy, small fry—as *mother tenderly cares for her child* she is sensitive to child's needs & responds accordingly. A mother never uses or exploits her children for personal gain. Never uses a child's weakness & vulnerability for her own benefit. A mother exists for her children--their needs are her concern. She subordinates her own will & desires for that of the child.

A mother's inherent, God given instinct is to protect her young. And as they grow she there to warn & worry about harmful influences, unsafe relationships, *bad company corrupts good moral*. A good mother will monitor what comes into the child's life, people, places, things.

Jesus defends the underdog, small fry, misfits, sinners **Jn 8**--id w/ her; stuck up for her; didn't condemn her; didn't leave her in that condition; but instructed her away from a sinful, destructive lifestyle. Love covers multi of sins & w/o judgment--opens doors in worst situations to enable to instruct & turn away from sin & to Lord. *Saved to the Guttermost* Heb 7:25 uttermost

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8 Having thus a fond 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.

Second is Tender heartedness or *fond affection*--leaders & servants must love the people they serve, not leaving it to others w/ excuse *'I'm not a people person'*. Jesus looked at the multitude & saw the individual & had compassion-- not a cattle drive, # of units, church of statistics. Paul said of the church *'you are my joy and crown'*.

Mk 10:17-22 RYR had many temptations; lust of flesh; pride of life; but didn't want to follow Jesus at that time. Jesus didn't see him for what he had, power, position, possessions but *who he was...lost soul* & *'loved him'*. Fond affection; tender hearted.... David/Jonathan *1Sam 18 'The soul of Jon was knit to the soul of David & Jon loved him as himself'*. What drew them was a heart for God, courageous faith & Godly character -- triggered after incident of killing Goliath. Upon Jon death David said *2Sm 1:26 'I am distressed for you my brother Jon you have been very pleasant to me. You love to me was more wonderful than the love of women.'* *Twisted sick homo view* 'it a terrifying thing for those like this to fall into hands of living God' God says *'I have loved you w/ an everlasting love therefore have I drawn you'*—

Eph 4:32 'Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ has forgiven you. Paul knew the pain of people leaving the faith, backsliding & turning on those who raised them in the Lord. Always a risk of a broken heart...as w/ Jesus on cross...*heart melted w/in Ps 22:14*

8b....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;

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Third is Vulnerability *'imparting our own lives'*...our behavior... imparting the gospel & the gospel made flesh thru our lives...letting down the guard, seeing real person, risking rejection—it happens by observing full range of a person's life--tears, laughter, serious, sad, humor, grief, hurt, guard down, being genuine, unfiltered-only about 35% of real me do others see. **Fraction**

For Paul not a pulpit personality or manufactured Christian image...but transparent, seeing strengths & weaknesses....cracks in the armor. **Danita most sensitive, transparent & vulnerable person I know...things affect her deeply, no cover up. She is what I'm not. Phil 2:5-8** God risked rejection of His salvation to save us from sin & have a home in heaven...vulnerable to insults, ridicule, slander....Paul said *'I was w/ you in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling...***We don't like to show weakness, fear, lack of confidence**

11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

Forth to Inspire confidence..Paul likens his leadership to two aspects of parenting..a mother who nurtures & is sensitive to needs & father who instills confidence by means of exhortation, encouragement and pleading-begging...he is like a coach, can inspire to greater heights of achievement – a good way to inspire confidence is to entrust a person w/ a task greater than their ability to accomplish it & encourage them to depend upon God to teach & make it happen...pushing beyond natural ability & toward a divine resource...Ability can be disability--tortoise and hare overconfident & proud & squandered. Weakness can be strength when dependant on Lord.

David ***Ps 18:34 He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.***

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Me ordained...I sure hope Chuck knows what he's doing. Our calling and character is realized when one of greater experience and calling puts trust in us...But there is risk—Judas **Jn 12:6** money box **Jn 13:26** dip sop-choice to rise to the occasion, adopt a calling & character above one you're on. We can entrust & it backfire. If entrusted & depended upon person & failure happens...*look for return*, often they come back stronger than ever. Peter **Lk 22:31** *when return strengthen your brethren.*

Jesus won redemption for us on the cross...then rose from dead & entrusted future salvation to group of rag-tag, uneducated disciples **Acts 4:13** *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; & they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus., yet w/in their lifetime it was said 'these men who have turned the world upside down have come here also' Acts 17:6* & us today to carry on until the Lord returns.

Embrace -1 Have compassion, defend the underdog, small fry 2 Be tender hearted; 3 Be vulnerable; 4 Inspire confidence.....

12 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Walk, manner of life...things to avoid and things to embrace.....

Communion