

Essential Attitudes of Spiritual Leaders

I Thess. 2:7-12

July 3, 2011

Growth Group Questions

Ice Breaker – When you were a child what authorities (other than your parents) in your life did you fear and respect the most? Why?

1. In this section of I Thessalonians Paul shares with his readers how he treated them while he was with them. In verse 7 he uses a fascinating metaphor of a mother caring for her little (the word means nursing infant) child. How does this metaphor help describe in your mind the way Paul interacted with the Thessalonians? Do you think it is affective in encouraging people to grow in their walk with the Lord? Wouldn't a pastor, small group leader, Sunday school teacher, choir leader get better results if they acted more like marine drill sergeants?

2. READ verse 8 – What does this verse tell us about Paul's motives for ministry? The word "lives" means one's very soul. Why do you think this attitude of "sharing our lives" endeared the Thessalonians to Paul? Describe a spiritual leader (a S.S. teacher, someone who disciple you, a pastor, a small group leader) you know who emulates that attitude?

3. READ verse 9 – There were many religious charlatans eager to make their fortune off the gullible and naïve citizens of Thessalonica. Paul was determined he would not be associated with the religious charlatans of his day. What trade did Paul use as a source of personal income? Where might Paul have done most of his evangelism in Thessalonica?

4. Do you think Paul would have been affective standing on a soap box and sharing the gospel in the middle of the city square? Is the work place a place where Christians can influence others for Christ today? How would you go about doing evangelism in the work place?

5. READ verse 10 - How important is integrity in the work place? How important or valuable is your personal integrity in the context of influencing a co-worker for Christ?

6. READ verse 11-12 – Paul has used the mother with her infant metaphor (vs. 7). Now he uses dads and their children (kids age 4-12) as a metaphor. What are the goals of a godly father? Why does Paul need to encourage and comfort the new believers in Thessalonica? What do you think he was encouraging them to do?

Action Steps

1. If you are a spiritual leader (small group leader, S.S. teacher, parent, etc.) this week make it a point to encourage your child, student, disciple, person under your spiritual influence, to live a life worthy of God. Challenge them to live lives worthy of God.

2. As a spiritual leader, ask God to give you the love a mother has for her nursing infants so that you might love those you spiritually influence with the right attitude and pray for the heart of a dad who wants his best for his children so that you can encourage those you are influencing spiritually to live lives worthy of God.



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

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