

It's A Family Affair

1 Thessalonians 2: 6-11



**By
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As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, ⁷but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2: 6-11

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

²"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."^[a]

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

It has long been said by “They” that there is no road map to good parenting, well apparently “They” never consulted the Word of God. The Bible is replete with example after example of model parents and the life styles they exhibited before their children. Perhaps the best example is that of the parable of the **Prodigal Son**. In this parable Jesus tell us of a son who, for the lack of patience and maturity, demanded from his father his inheritance immediately. As the story unfolds, the son takes his inheritance and goes off to a foreign land where he spends all of his wealth on riotous living, leaving him no place to dwell

but with the hogs in the hog pin. I contend that it was because of good parenting that the son wound up in the hog pin.

As bizarre as that might sound, let me explain. Had the son observed his father treating his fellow man with disrespect, or had he observed his father dealing dishonestly in any manner, the son, in his struggle to survive, might have resorted to similar tactics which would have ended up with him killing or being killed or even in prison. But what the son did see was a honest, hardworking, fair man who treated everyone with respect, great or small and because that was the example set before the son, this was what was programmed into him and it resulted in him taking a job (a honest job) in the hog pin.

Even though the son was impatient and lacked maturity, he did have a good memory and he remembered the example that his father had set for him and that example eventually saved the son from what could have been a far worse fate. The scriptures

teach *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”*. Proverbs 22:6

This proved to be true for the prodigal and it is just as true today.

The core scriptures for today provide insight into the roles of good parents as well as the roles of good children. These scriptures emphasize the mindset that building good, strong, God centered families is a **Family Affair**.

“We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” Mothers have gentle, caring ways towards their children. Their children are dear to their hearts. Mothers delight in sharing their life and love. They cherish the importance as well as the power of the Word and take great care in imparting its wisdom.

. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and

urging you to live lives worthy of God.” It is interesting to note that the scriptures says that the father deals with his children, which means that he is up close and personal, he is hands on in his interaction with his children. He provides firm handed guidance in the rearing of his children. He encourages them. He lifts them up. He builds on their strengths, while working on their short comings through comfort and care. He shares the urgency of a God centered life and the benefits that are derived from it. Together the mother and father provide the core values that will carry their children throughout their lives. It is true team work. **It’s a Family Affair!**

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Children, you have a role in this Family Affair. Your job, your responsibility, your role is to show respect to your parents and be obedient to them. *“Obey your parents in the Lord”* The

scripture reveals that if you are obedient you can expect a quality of life that is worth living for and it will be a long life as well. **It is a Family Affair.** There are times when I have given my children words of advice and they will invariably retort “oh Daddy it’s easy for you to say that or to take that stand. You are a preacher”. I have to remind them that I am just as apt to make a misstep as they are, but I also let them know that even in the midst of my misstep, I have faith that the Lord is able to keep me from stumbling and falling and that someday he will present me spotless before His throne in Glory! Not only will He do that for me, but He is willing to do that for you too! If you are not now a part of the family of God, I encourage you to accept His extended invitation to come, take up His yoke and follow Him. For His yoke is easy and His burdens are light and you will find rest unto your soul. Whatever your shortcomings, whatever your sins may be. While you have time come and experience the power of His **Family Affair**