

## 4) THE ADVENTURE OF *(SPIRITUAL)* *FATHERHOOD*



**WARM UP:** Take a moment to share about how you experience Father's Day... is it a happy day for you? Or a sad day? Or a mix of a lot of things?

**WARM UP:** Was there anyone in particular who "led" you to the Lord?

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21** *(Context: In this part of his letter, Paul is addressing an issue in the church where the believers were playing off one leader against another. They were arrogantly saying, either "this leader is good and that one is bad", or "we don't need them anyway, we're fine without them". In essence, the believers were being arrogant and in Paul's response to them he warns them to not get ahead of themselves.)*

1. In v14-15 Paul makes a distinction between a "guardian" (or "teacher" in other translations) and a "father", and he refers to the believers as his "dear children" rather than his followers. What do you think could be the difference between being a guardian/teacher in Christ and a father/parent in Christ?

2. In v16-17 it's interesting that Paul says "imitate me" rather than "listen to my teaching", and that he instructs Timothy primarily to "remind you of my way of life", and only secondarily says "which agrees with what I teach". This is reminiscent of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:15-20.

- What would you look for to identify someone who could be a "true teacher / spiritual parent" for you?
- How do you know whether you could be a "true teacher / spiritual parent" for someone else?

3. In v18-21, Paul directly warns those who can talk a good religious game but can't back it up with powerful action. What kind of "power" would we expect to see in the life of someone truly living in God's Kingdom?

4. Is anyone "spiritually parenting" you at the moment? Are you "spiritually parenting" someone else at the moment? If the answer to either question is "no", what do you think God might want you to do about it?

**THIS WEEK'S GO! CHALLENGE:** If you have a (spiritual) child, or a (spiritual) parent, be intentional this week about saying to them (in your own words)... I love you, I'm proud you, and I see that you are good at [ ].