

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



How Good Fathers Lead

1 Corinthians 11:1

Sunday, June 19, 2016

How would you like to be so confident in the way you live that you could easily say to anyone, "If you want to know what to do, just follow me." In essence, this is what Paul was saying when he advised in **1 Corinthians 11:1**, "...you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ." This basically means, **"Do what I do, and you'll do well."**

He said this to the Corinthians, who were his children in the faith. And so should every father be able to say to his children.

FATHERS LEAD WITH THEIR WORDS

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

¹⁰You yourselves are our witnesses-and so is God-that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. ¹¹And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹²We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy.

- They plead - To exhort their children to a holy life.
- They encourage - Give comfort in the times of fear, humiliation, and uncertainty.
- They urge - To charge or testify. They are witnesses to the power of living for Jesus.

Dad, are you able to say, "I make Jesus Christ my example. He is my model in all that I do; and if you follow him, and follow me as far as I follow him, you will not ever go wrong in your life.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

FATHERS LEAD WITH THEIR EXAMPLE

They are kind to the weak.

One man said, "When I was a teenager, Dad would come in my room and say, 'C'mon, kid, let's go.' ""Where are we going?' 'To Lucy's.'"

"Once a month Dad would visit Miss Lucy's house. She was a woman whose body was twisted and pinned into a wheelchair by arthritis. He would reach his big arms around her frail body and lift her out of the wheelchair and place her in the front seat of our brown station wagon. Then he would fold the wheelchair, throw it in back, and drive Miss Lucy to the monthly Communion service. Dad was a Vice President of a publishing company who shuttled shut-ins.

They are generous to the needy

Later, while in the hospital, that same dad, trying to recover from a massive heart attack, found out that a family down the street didn't have enough money to buy groceries. So he wrote them a check. The son said that this was the last thing he ever wrote, and it became a lasting investment in his life."

A final story:

One man said of his father, "Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were 8 children, all probably under the age of 12. You could tell they didn't have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean.

"The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, elephants, and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to a circus before. It promised to be a highlight of their young lives. The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be.

"The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, 'You're my knight in shining armor.' He was smiling and basking in pride, looking at her.

"The ticket lady asked the father how many tickets he wanted. He proudly said, 'Please, let me buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets so I can take my family to the circus.' The ticket lady quoted the price. In shock, the man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped and the father's lip began to quiver. The father leaned a little closer and asked, 'How much did you say?' The ticket lady again quoted the price.

"The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight children that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus? Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand in his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. (And we were not wealthy in any sense of the word) My father reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, 'Excuse me sir, did this fall out of your pocket?'

"The father of eight knew what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eye, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with quivering lips and a tear streaming down his cheek, replied, ' thank you, thank you. This really means a lot to me and my family.'"

The generous man's son said, "My father and I went back to our car and drove home. We didn't go to the circus that night. You see, \$20 was all that he had. But the joy of generosity we both felt was a far greater thrill than we could have ever experienced at a circus."

What a father that man was! What a godly illustration of Jesus!

Thank God for all fathers who have been godly illustrations, godly examples to follow!