A PORTRAIT OF FATHERHOOD

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

INTRODUCTION

As we look at this portrait, consider with me 5 wonderful traits of a father today.

ABLE TO EXPRESS GENUINE LOVE (v.8)

In the original language those words expressed an intensity of love that gives repeatedly. It is spoken of a mother's caring for her children. This topic is addressed to the church and Paul's concern for them is both caring as women do and loving as a man would do!

Love is an important trait for fathers because loving and expressing love does not come naturally for most men.

A TRANSPARENT LIFE (v.8)

Modeling the Christian life is critical, our kids ought to know we are Christians by how we live!

The Values found in a Christian home is different

A. Non-Christian values
   - Pleasure
   - Power
   - Prestige
   - Possessions

B. Christian Values – Things we cannot see, buy or hold onto are most precious.
   - Contentment
   - Service
   - Humility
   - Eternal

Transparency reveals the real You! Kids see who you really are, the good, bad, and the ugly. Are you courageous enough to live openly before them?

AN UNSELFISH LABOR (v.9)

What kind of work ethic are you demonstrating to your children?

We teach this ethic two ways

A. We teach by Example

B. We allow our children to learn by O.J.T.

Children need to watch and experience

A GENUINE SPIRITUALITY (v.10)

God has commissioned you to be the Spiritual leaders of your home!

A. You either lead your family closer or further from God
B. Genuine spirituality is not perfection but growth despite imperfection
    a. Do your children see you read your Bible?
    b. Do your children hear you pray?
    c. Do your children watch you live by faith?

A POSITIVE INFLUENCE (v.12)

Fathers need to encourage his children to live lives worthy of God

A. Encourage
B. Cheer them on
C. Charge

CONCLUSION

Five traits of a Father that we can dedicate ourselves to have this year.

A. Love Genuinely
B. Live Transparently
C. Labor Unselfishly
D. Lead Spiritually
E. Influence Positively

Applications:

1) Fathers are desperately needed in families across America
    - Take your children on special trips, outings, lunches to highlight their accomplishments
    - Be in attendance at special events they are a part of in school, activities etc.

2) Fathers have a moral, ethical, physical, and spiritual challenge to demonstrate to their family
    - Be in church with your family
    - Lead devotions and prayer time
    - Demonstrate moral & ethical qualities

3) We cannot allow society to rob our rights as followers of Christ
    - Know what is being taught in school
    - Know what your children are looking at on social media
    - Know what your children's friends are allowed to do or watch