



For Mothers & Fathers

I Thessalonians 2:6-12

- **Background:** Paul has planted baby churches in Greece. One is coming under attack. Paul speaks of his care for them in terms of a mother and father.
- 1. A Pattern for Parents**
- Many different parenting styles: Buddy/Bully/Blind/Busy/Quick Fix/Subcontracting
 - Paul has 3 words for mothers and 3 for fathers about the right attitudes
- a) Mothers: Gentle**
- The need for a gentle character, especially under pressure
 - “among you” – not ‘over you’. Gets down to their level.
- b) Mothers: Caring**
- The picture is of a nursing mother feeding and nourishing her child
 - Not seeing children as an interruption to her life/plans
 - Not habitually looking for quick fix solutions, farming out care to others
- c) Mothers: Sacrificial love**
- A giving love (v8) – a mother gives, not just time and things, but herself
 - Sacrificial love (v9) – a mother puts her children before her ambitions, social life
- a) Fathers: Encourage**
- Literally ‘call alongside’ – not leading from up ahead, but alongside
 - Not demanding kids are exactly like them in interests or abilities, but encouraging them in their own.
- b) Fathers: Comfort**
- Gentle comfort to mark fathers, not calling for a stiff upper lip
 - Children worry easily – do you know what fears and worries your children have?
 - Comfort needs to be worked at because men have a ‘fix it’ mentality
- c) Fathers: Urge**
- “Urging you to live lives worthy of God”
 - Fathers need to recognise that they have brought little bundles of eternity to life
 - Urging them to obey God’s ways, disciplining and rebuking for sinfulness
- You don’t have to be a Christian to be a good parent, but being a Christian equips you to be the best parent you can be—preparing your children for this life and for eternity.
 - Every parent needs to look first at their relationship with God.
- 2. A Pattern for all Christians**
- Main application of the passage is to elders/pastors – we need to display these 6



new life fellowship

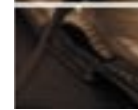
SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

Sunday	Evening Service at Day Centre - Missionary Prayer time	8pm
Sun25th	Service as usual next Sunday	10.15am
	Evening Service - Psalm singing at Robert & Judith's	7pm
Fri 30th	Calendar Distribution - meet at Mark & Judith's at 2pm	
Fri 6th Jan	GO Rally - Loughbrickland RP Church - Rev Kenneth Stewart	8pm

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

sermon notes continued:

- characteristics which Paul displayed to the Thessalonians
- Application to older Christians helping new Christians – gentle, encouraging, feeding, coming alongside, remembering that they are young in their faith.

3. Patterned on God

- Paul patterns his care, not only on parents, but on God
- He is ‘Our Father in Heaven’ who ‘pities like a father’ (Ps 103), and comforts like a mother (Isaiah 66:13)
- Take all 6 qualities and apply them to God’s care of you.

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